



# Topologically Optimised Cast Glass Grid Shell Nodes

P5 presentation

Wilfried Damen 4277031

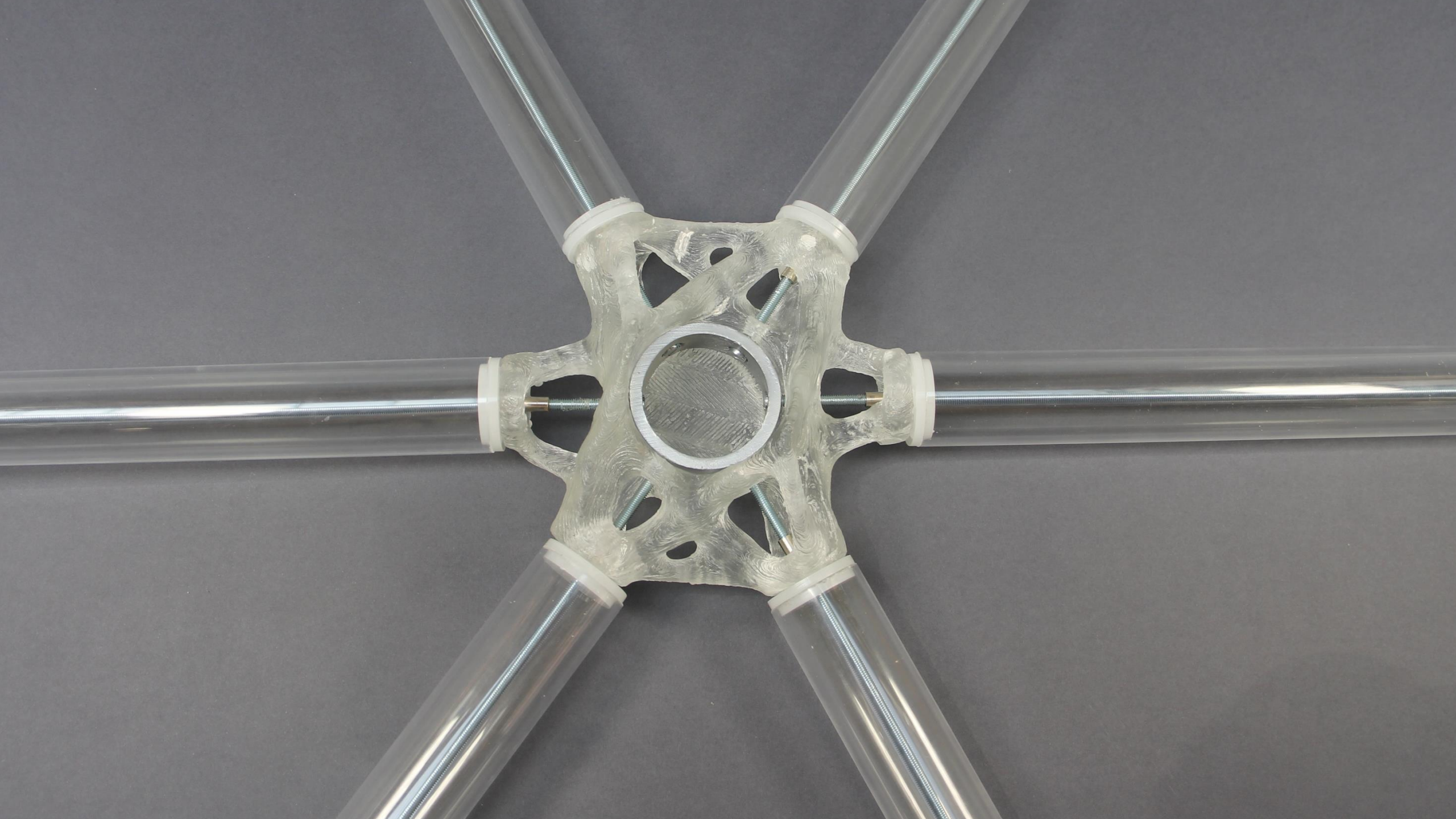
Mentors

**Faidra Oikonomopoulou**  
Structural Design

**Michela Turrin**  
Design Informatics

External Examiner

**Erik Louw**  
Urban and Regional Development



## **Goal**

*Explore the potential of topology optimisation as a design tool for complex structural cast-glass elements with a reduced annealing time*

## **Goal**

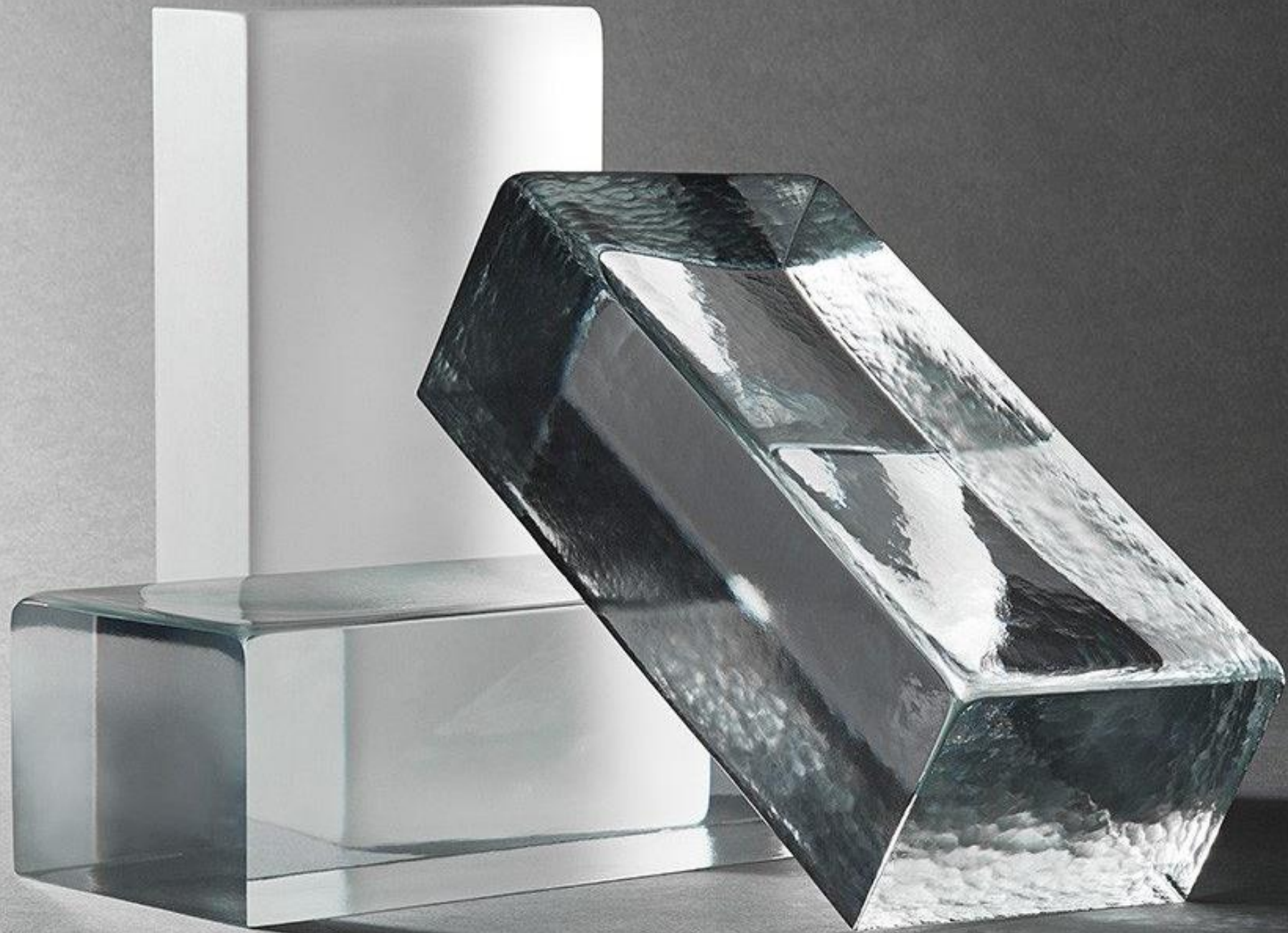
*Explore the potential of topology optimisation as a design tool for complex structural cast-glass elements with a reduced annealing time*







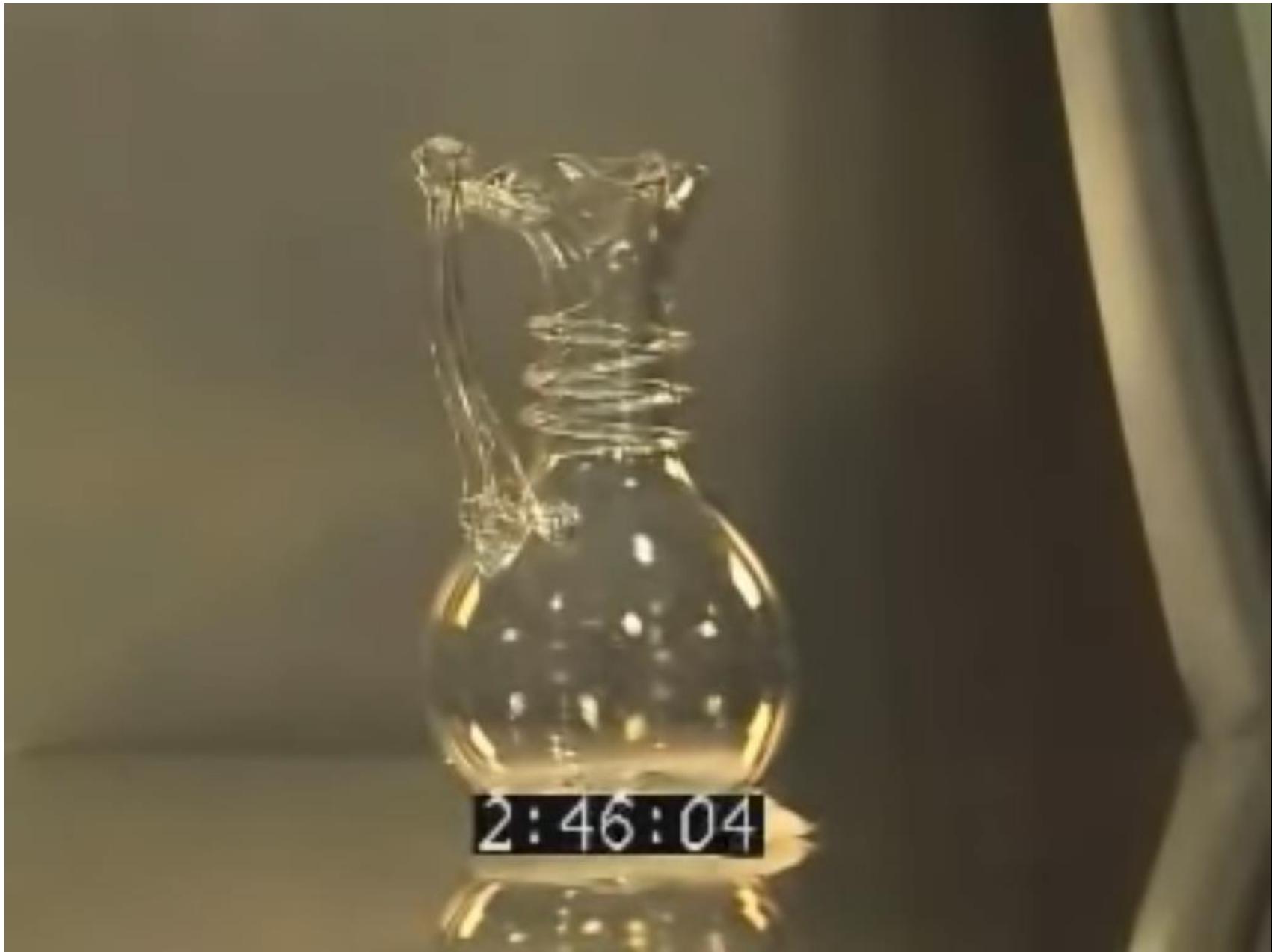
cast glass architecture







cooling glass



cooling glass



cooling glass

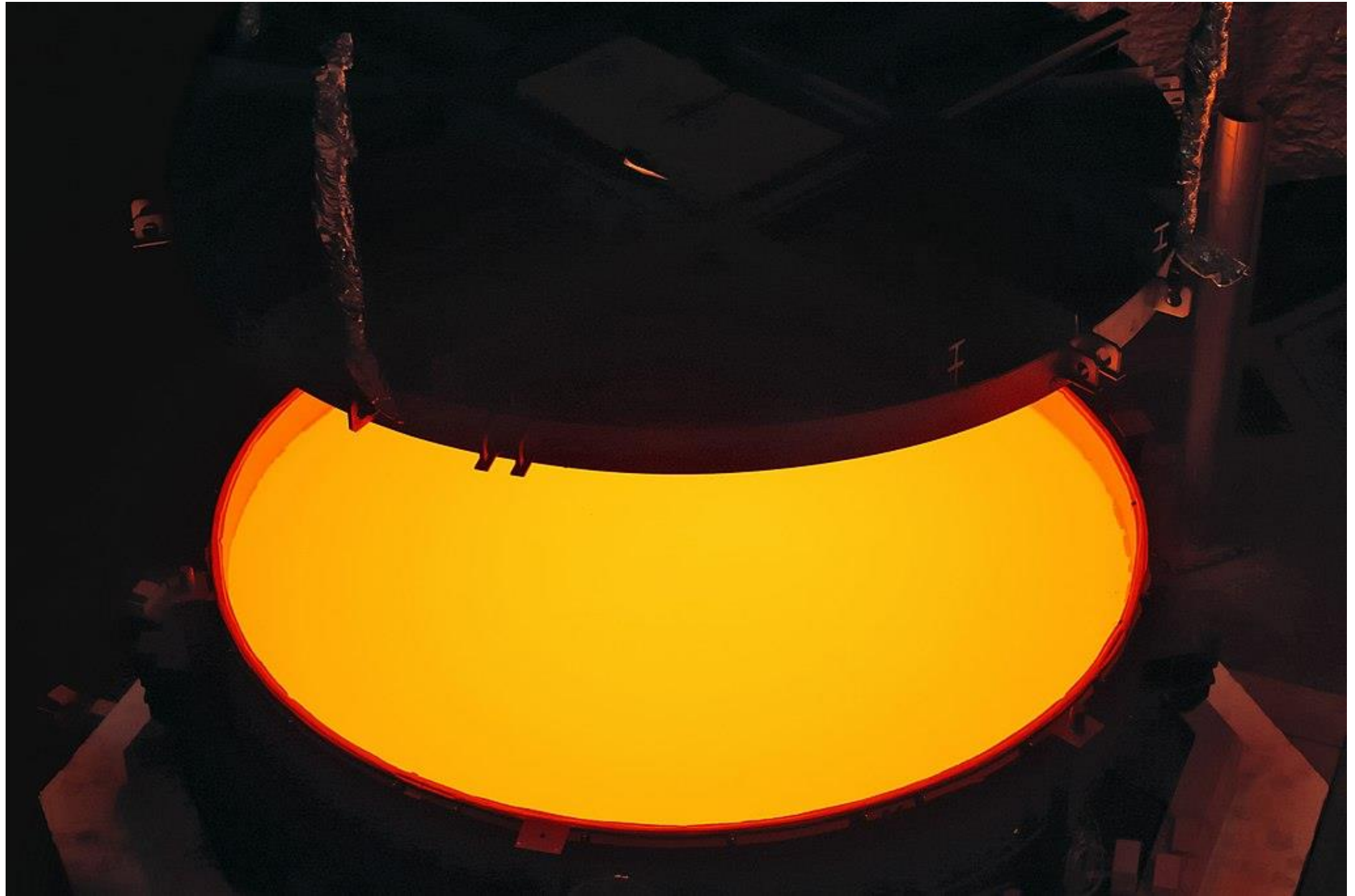


cooling glass

## **Annealing**

*Gradual cooling to prevent internal stresses*

*How to design for annealing?*





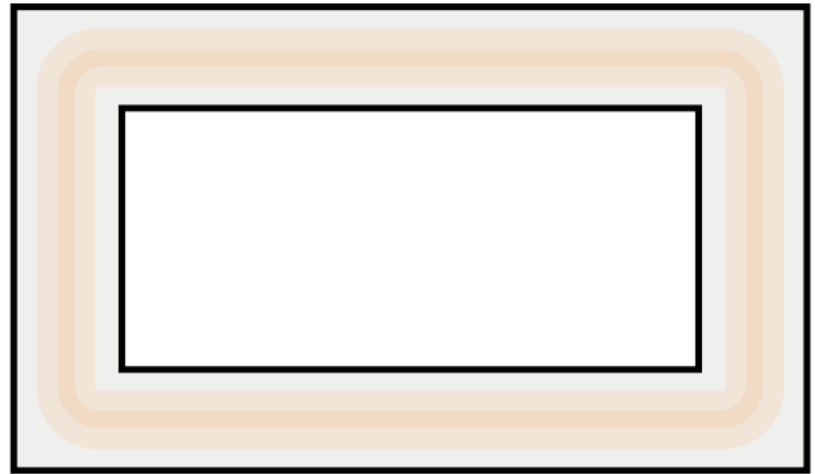
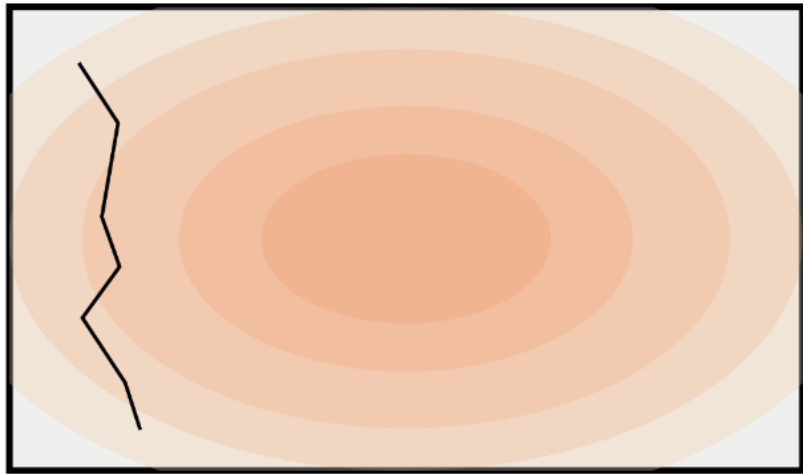
GMT

GMT

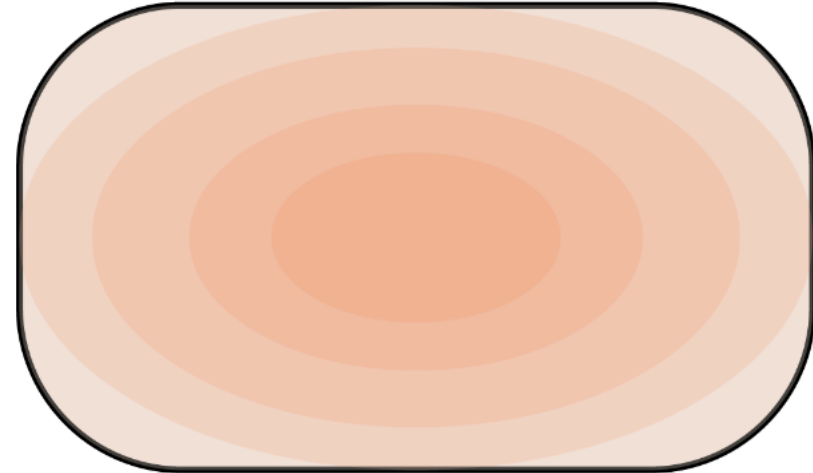
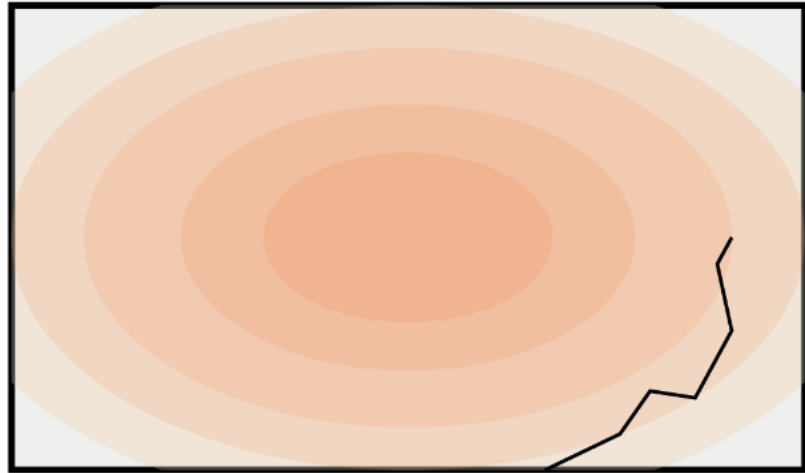
UA SCIENCE  
RICHARD F. CARIS  
MIRROR LAB  
Steward Observatory

ARIZONA

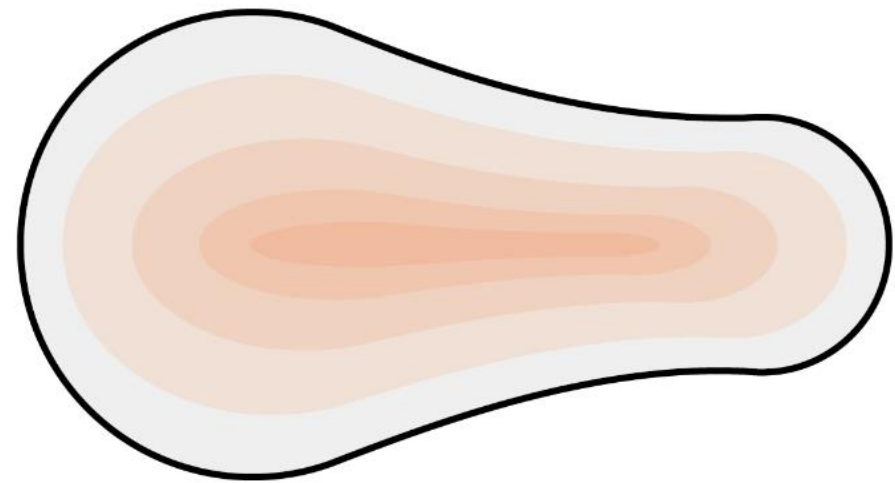
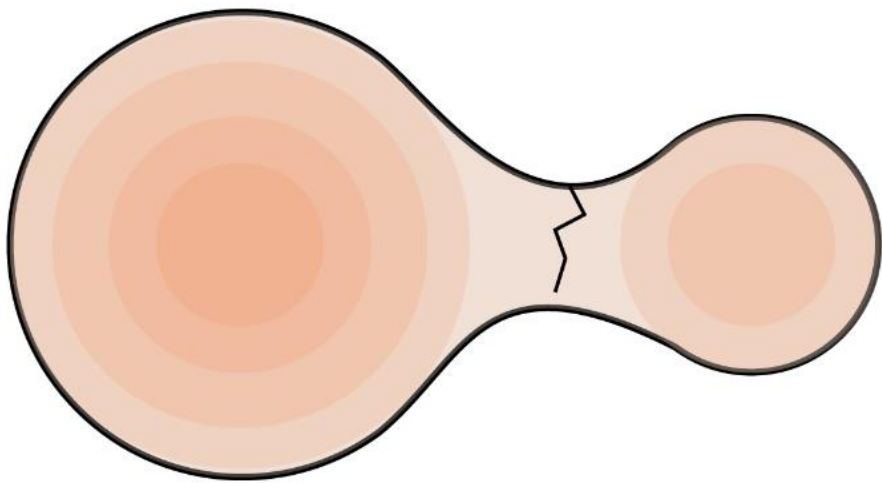




mass reduction



rounded shapes



equal mass distribution



Topology Optimisation



Topology Optimisation

## **Research question**

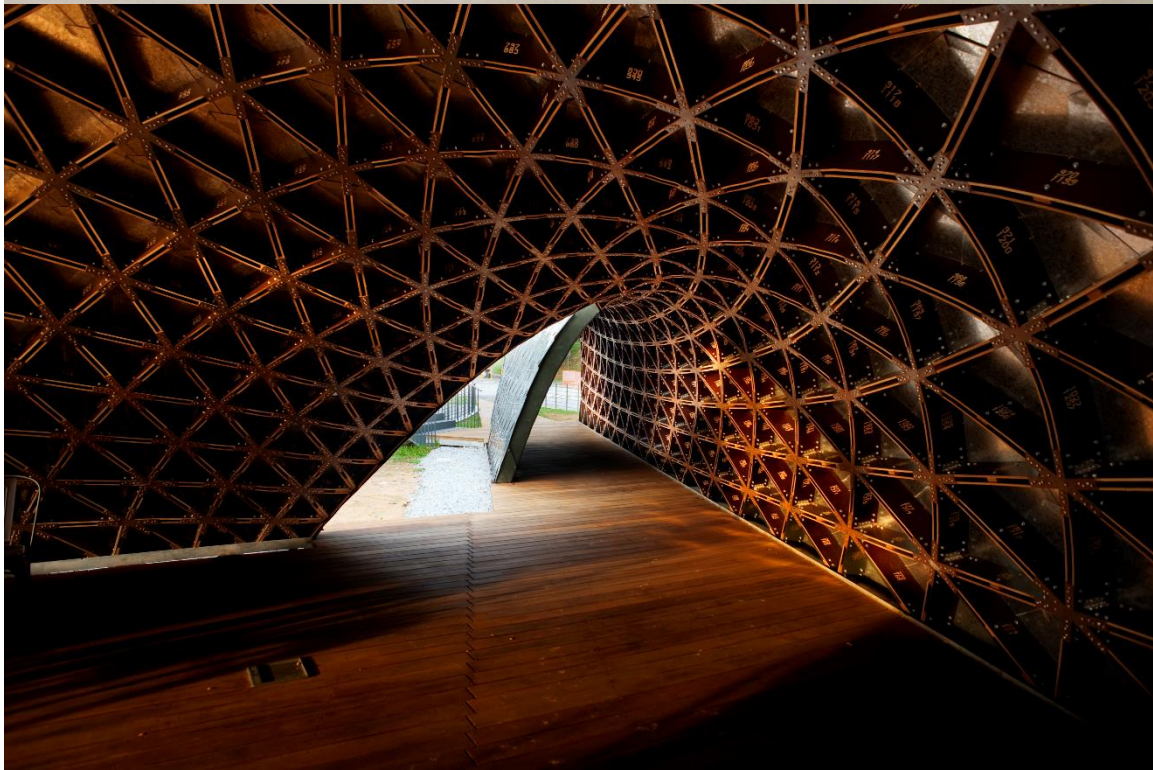
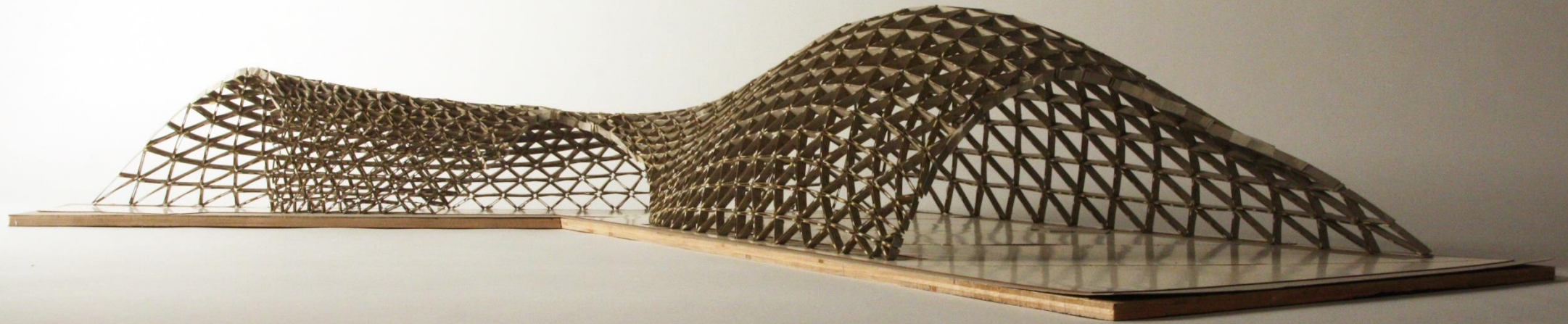
*What is the potential of using Topology Optimisation as a design tool for a structural cast glass grid shell node that is optimised for fabrication, structural behaviour and assembly?*

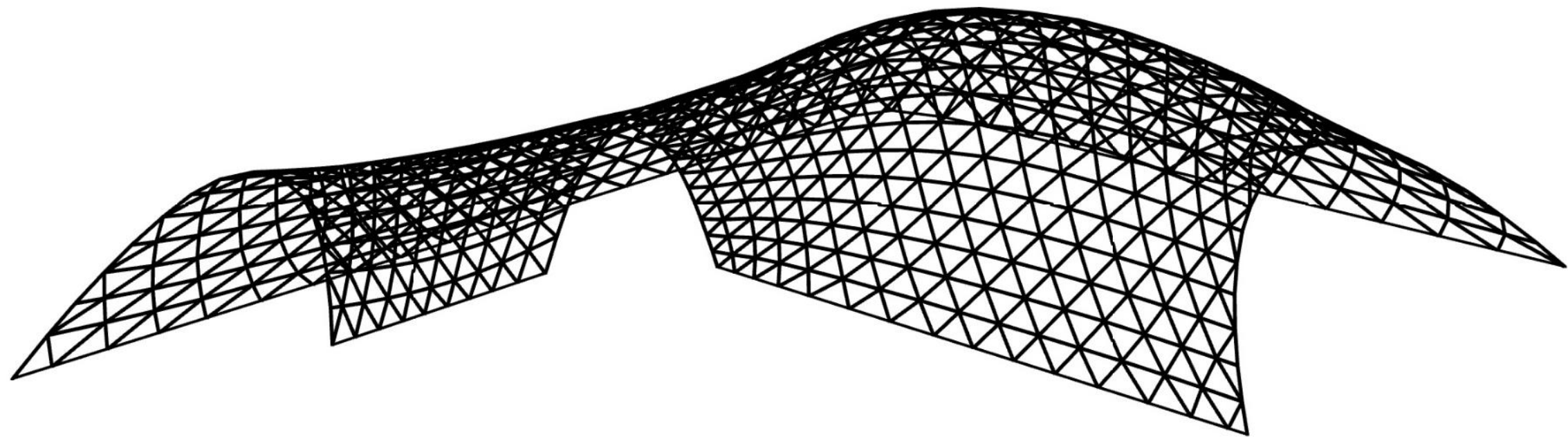






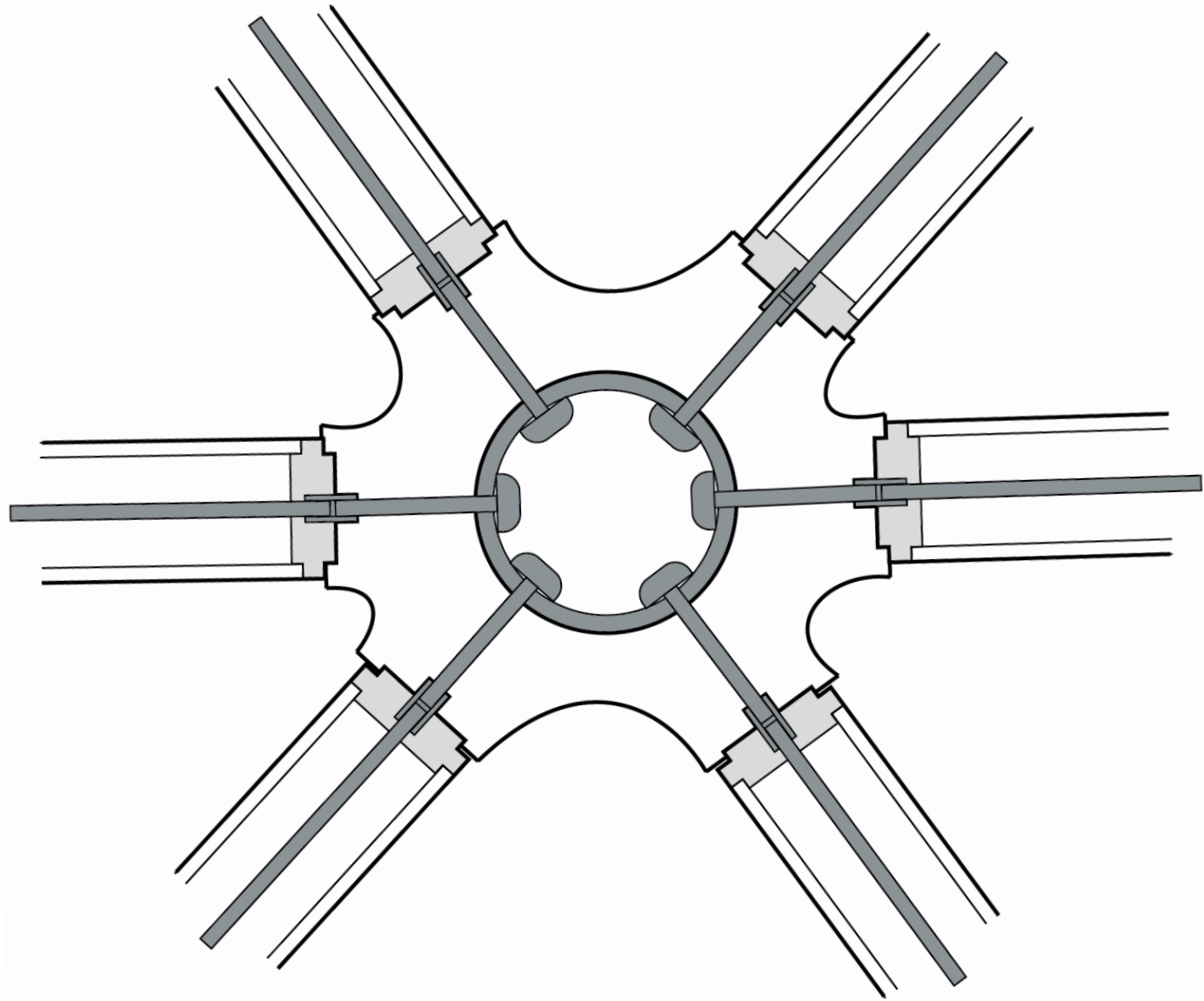
case study design







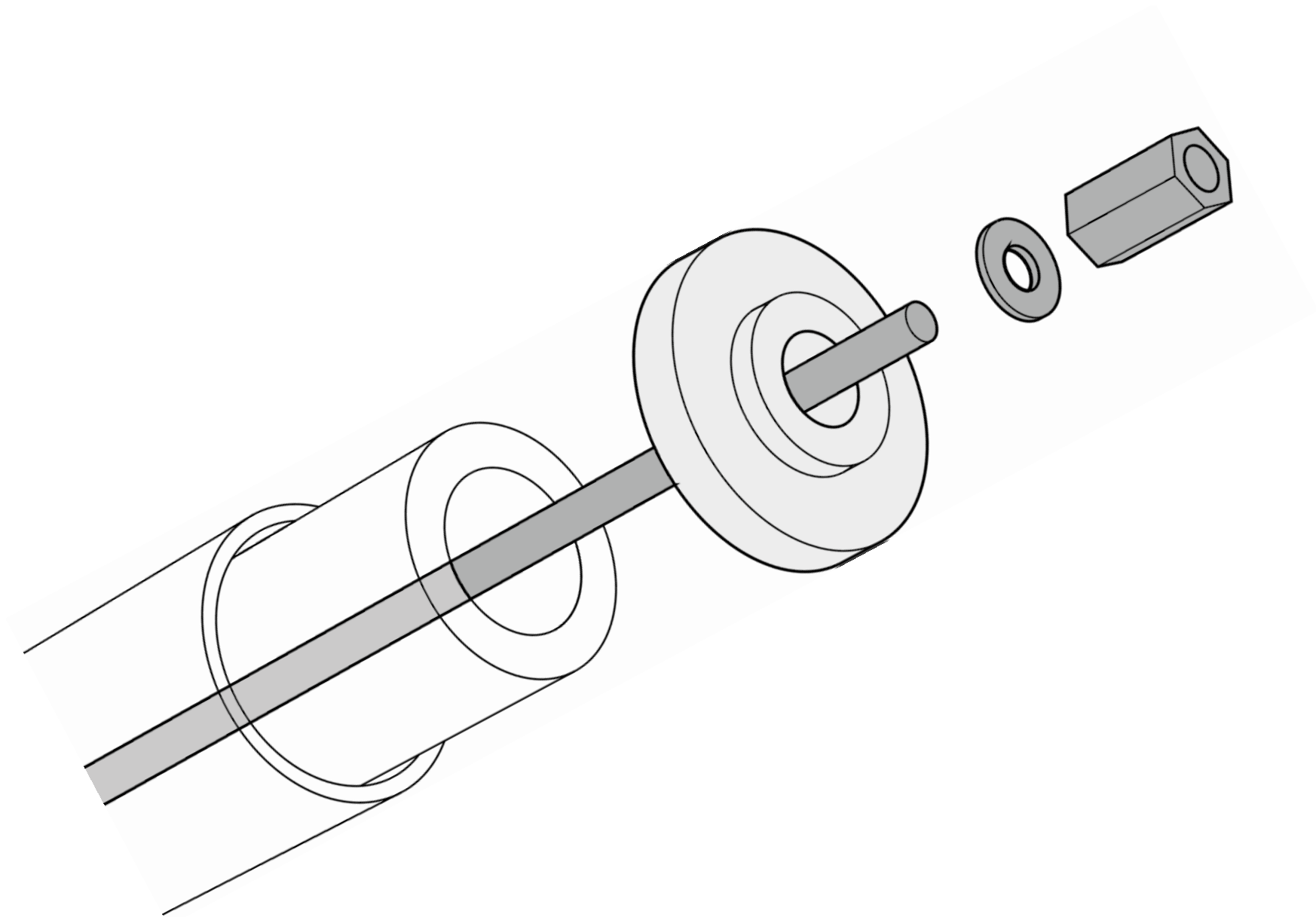
glass beams



assembly design



metal end caps



POM end caps

# Topology Optimisation



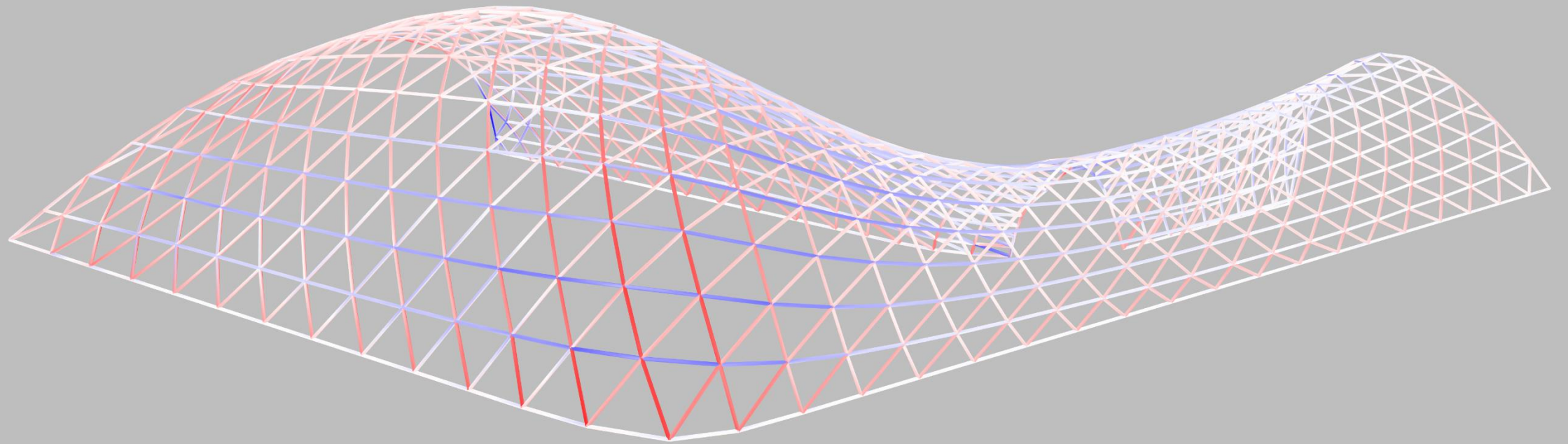
## Optimisation goals

*Minimising mass*

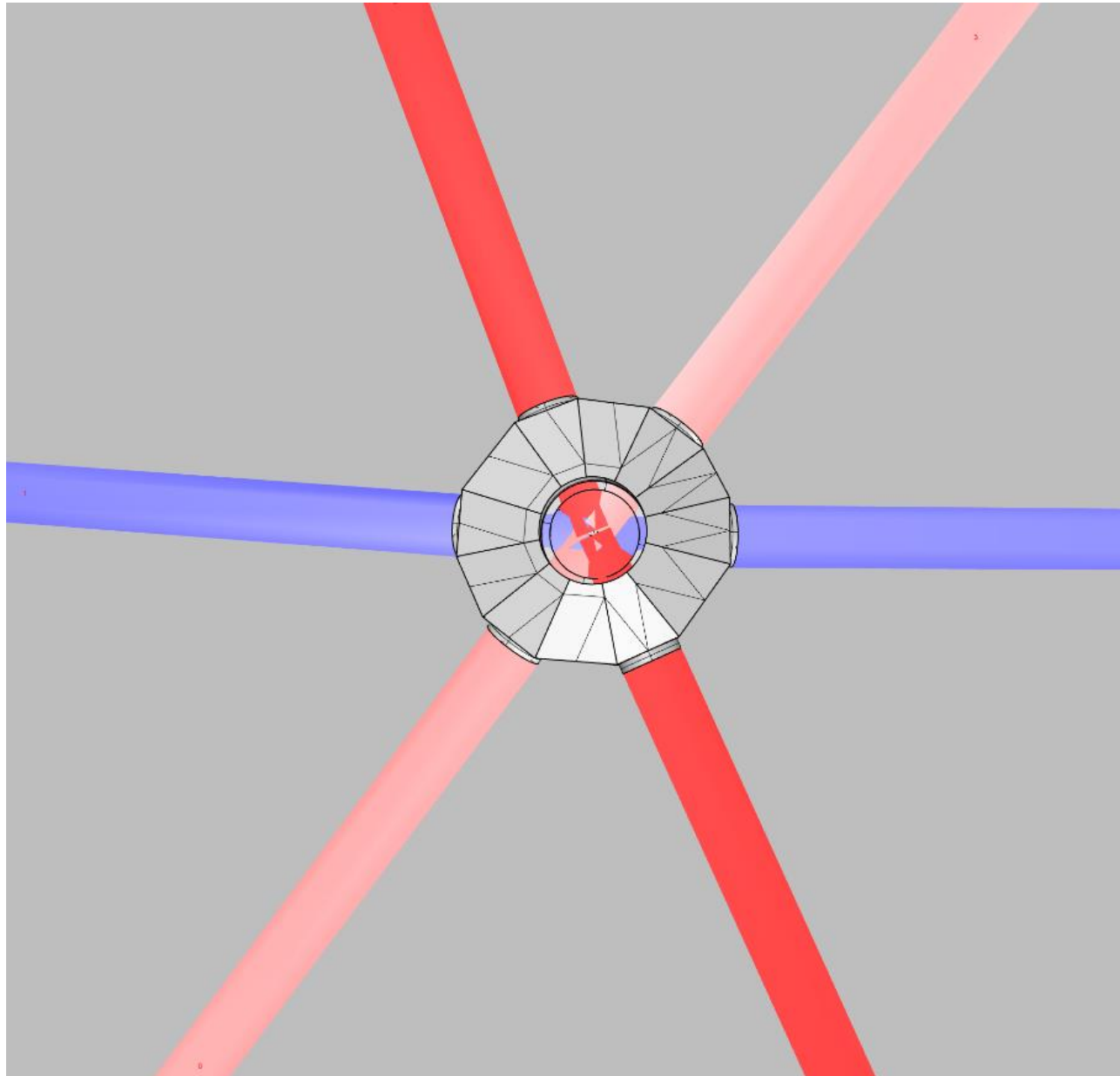
*Element thickness 15-30 mm*

*Maximum tension 20 N/mm<sup>2</sup>*

*Maximum compression 200 N/mm<sup>2</sup>*

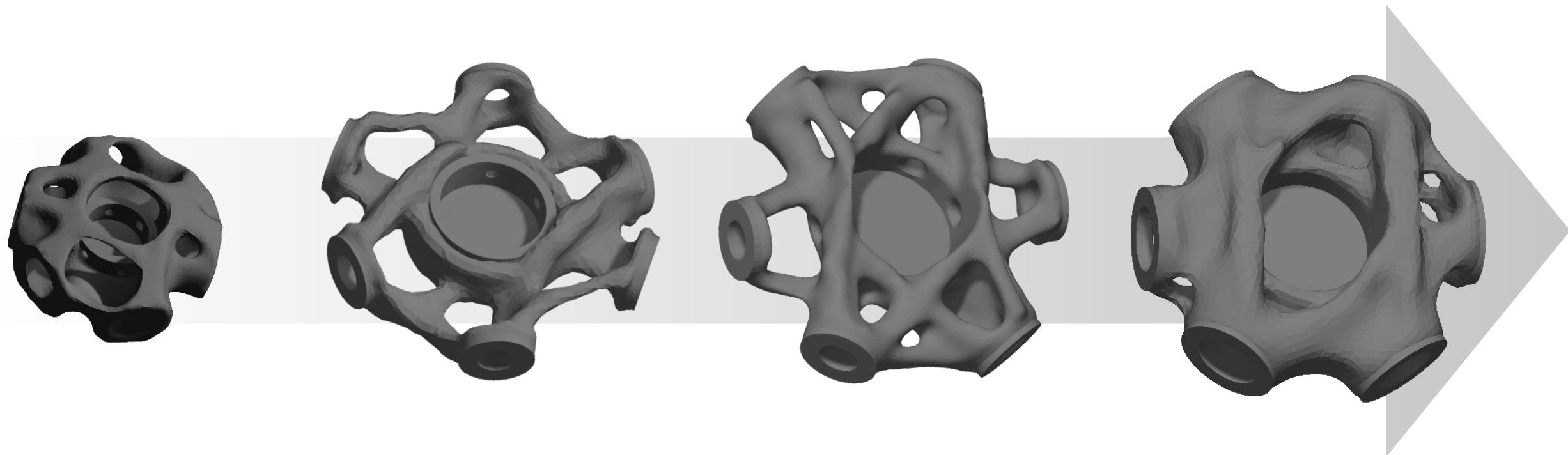


Karamba3D structural analysis



Grasshopper output

|    | A                            | B        | C        | D        | E |
|----|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|---|
| 1  |                              |          |          |          |   |
| 2  | Formfinding force LC0 [N]    |          |          |          |   |
| 3  | 1                            | -1076.49 | -670.869 | -1490.33 |   |
| 4  | 2                            | 649.9401 | 6.894196 | 2.128091 |   |
| 5  | 3                            | -1720.09 | 1116.334 | 2789.226 |   |
| 6  | 4                            | 1269.18  | 658.9714 | 1649.398 |   |
| 7  | 5                            | -566.163 | -5.4849  | -35.0467 |   |
| 8  | 6                            | 1443.604 | -1105.53 | -2347.43 |   |
| 9  | Formfinding moment LC0 [Nmm] |          |          |          |   |
| 10 | 1                            | -2183.86 | 4536.84  | -4141.91 |   |
| 11 | 2                            | -2135.31 | 2732.211 | -480.445 |   |
| 12 | 3                            | -1546.63 | -1832.28 | -1636.13 |   |
| 13 | 4                            | 3195.263 | 830.3057 | -3122.66 |   |
| 14 | 5                            | 2600.111 | -3244.91 | 2762.6   |   |
| 15 | 6                            | 70.42637 | -3022.17 | 6618.537 |   |
| 16 | Analysis LC0 + LC1 + LC2 [N] |          |          |          |   |
| 17 | 1                            | -6895.08 | -4235.39 | -9372.89 |   |
| 18 | 2                            | -2601.23 | -44.058  | -122.835 |   |
| 19 | 3                            | 347.3707 | -325.695 | -486.678 |   |
| 20 | 4                            | 7598.729 | 3829.858 | 9949.124 |   |
| 21 | 5                            | 1908.855 | 3.2648   | 57.30447 |   |



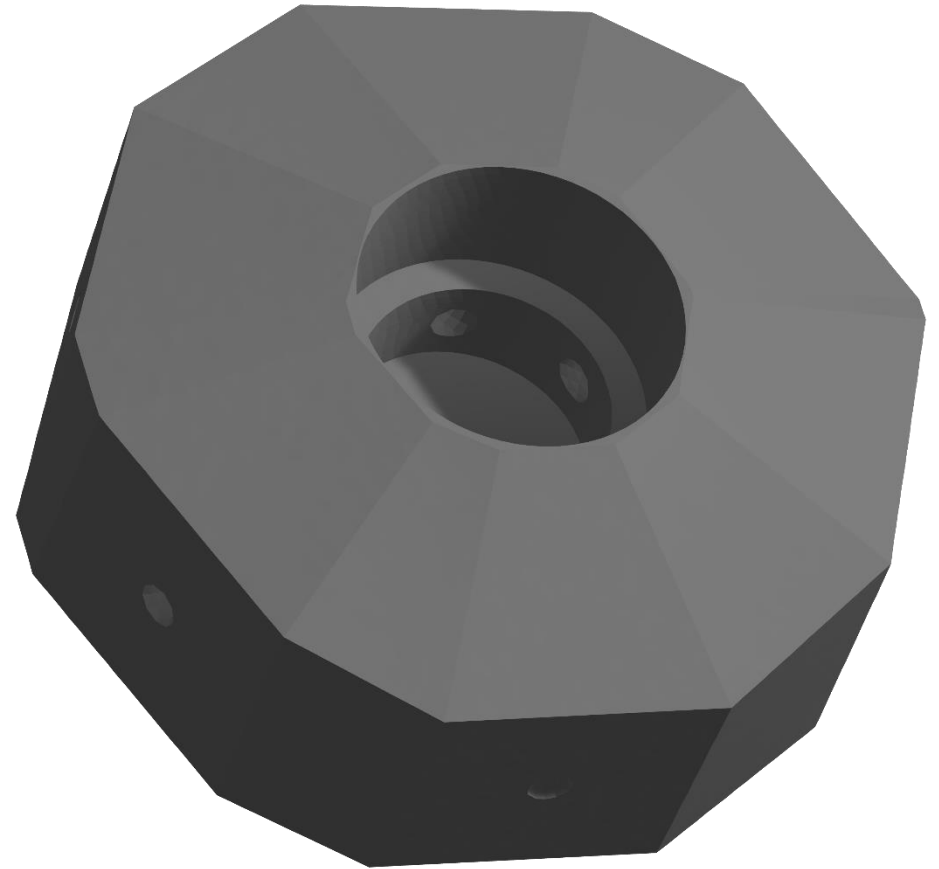
design evolution

*Diameter* 140 mm

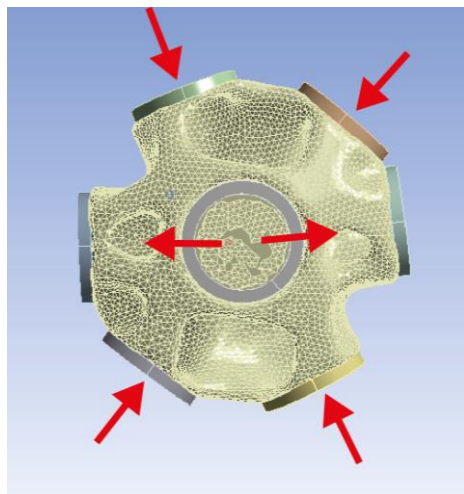
*Mass goal* -

*Section size limit* -

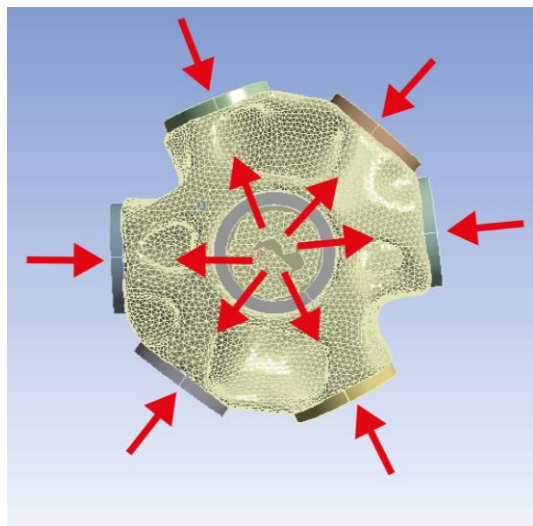
*Mass* 1.9 kg



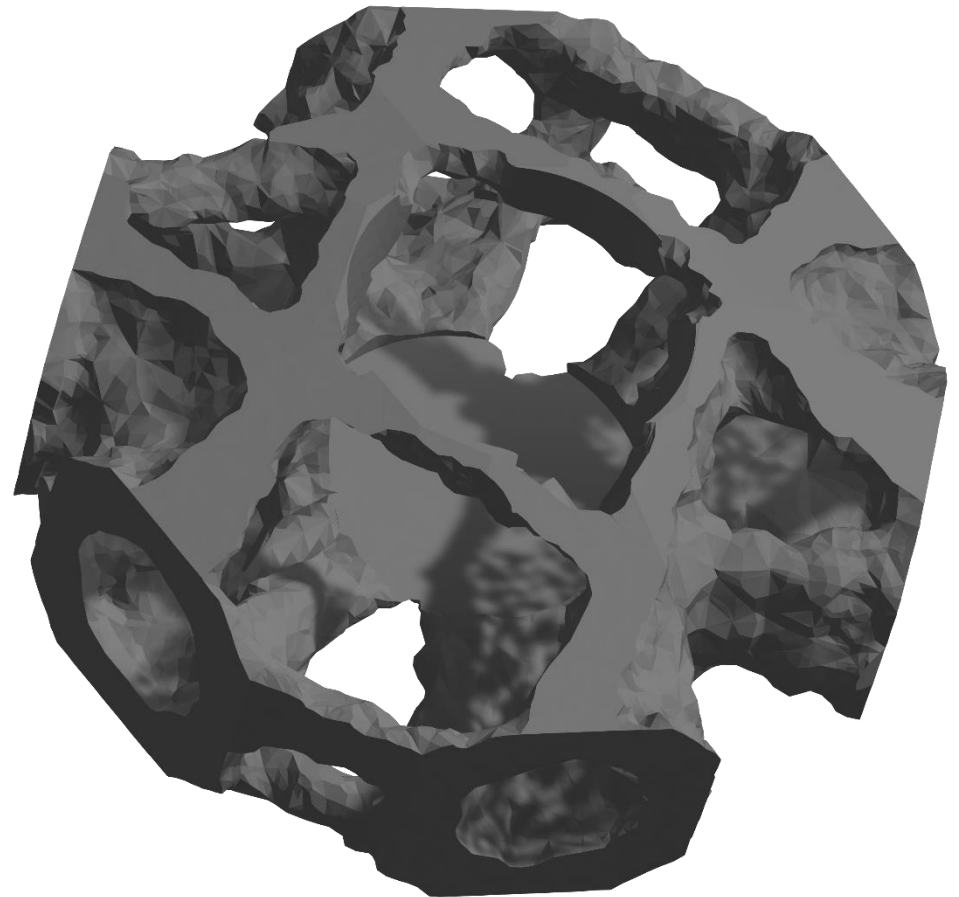
|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 140 mm  |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 30%     |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | -       |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 0.61 kg |



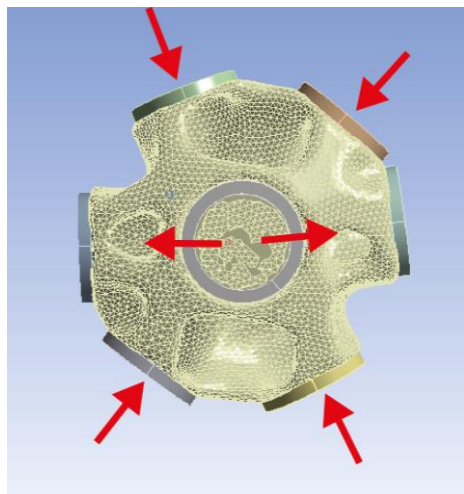
shell weight



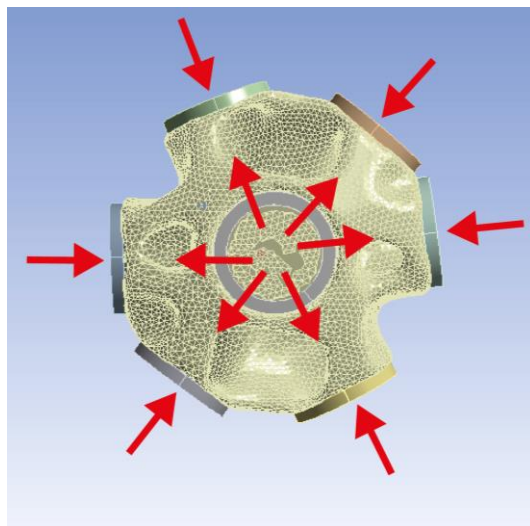
added load (1 kN)



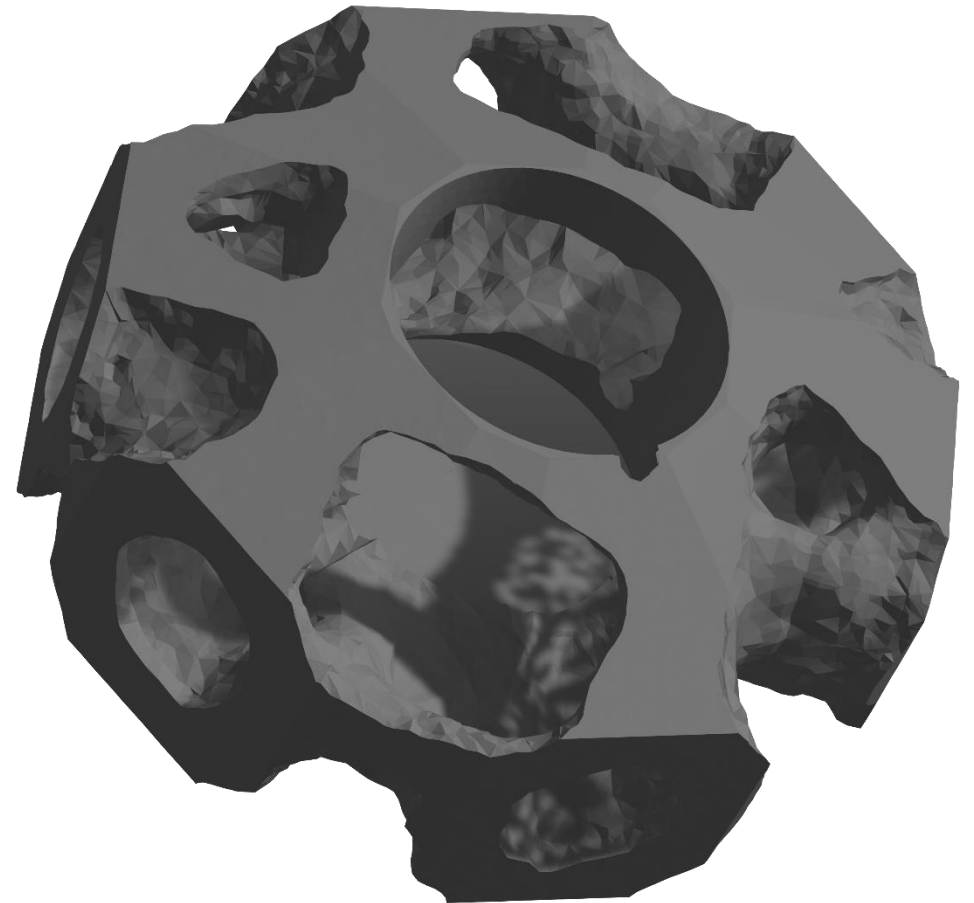
|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 140 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 40%      |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 20-50 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 0.82 kg  |



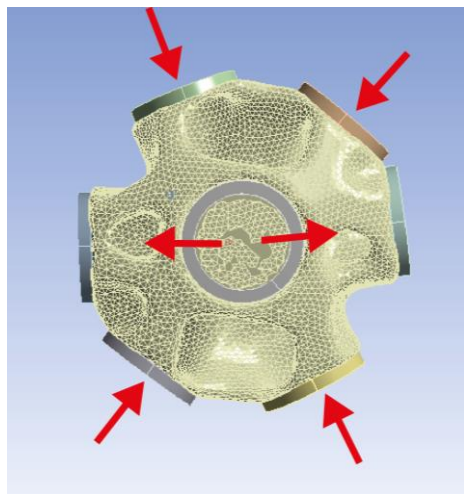
shell weight



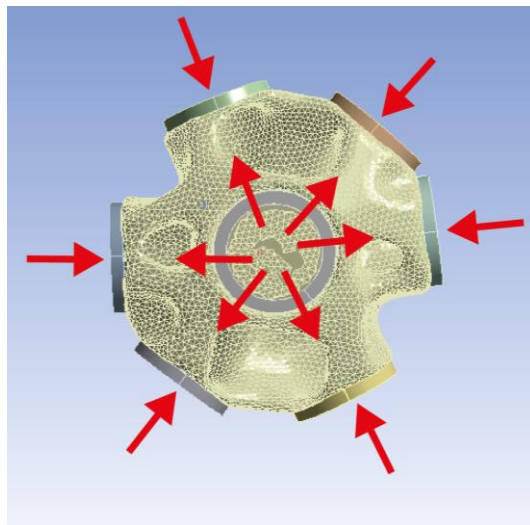
added load (1 kN)



|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 140 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 40%      |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 20-50 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 0.82 kg  |



shell weight



added load (1 kN)





**C: Model, Static Structural**

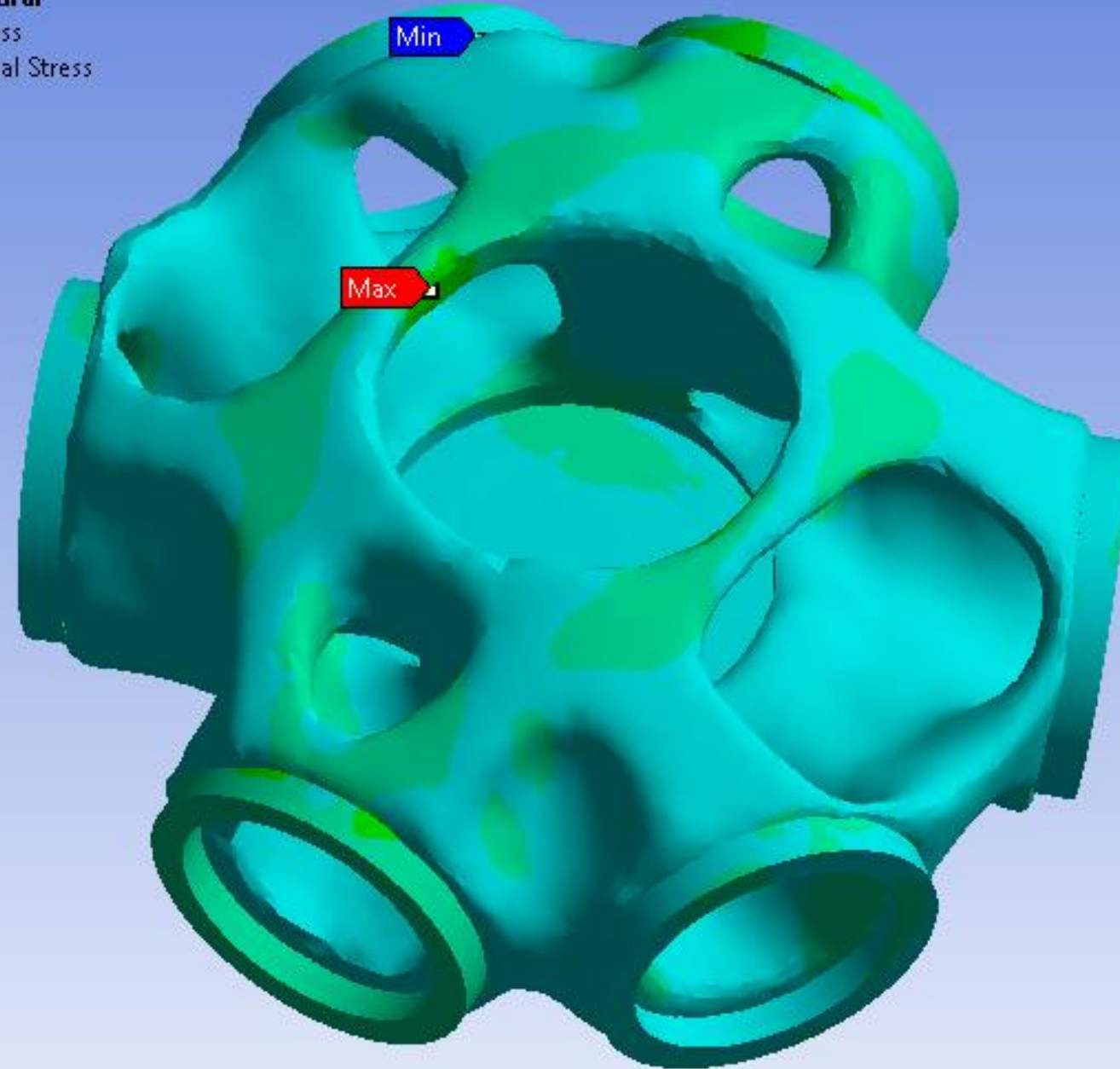
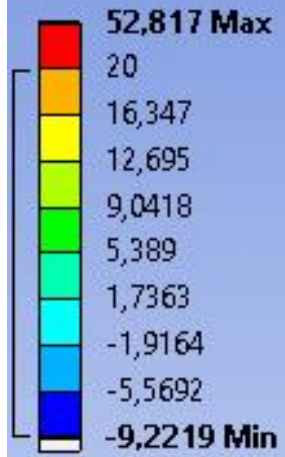
Maximum Principal Stress

Type: Maximum Principal Stress

Unit: MPa

Time: 1

10-5-2019 18:14



**Small node**

*structurally feasible*

*impractical to assemble*

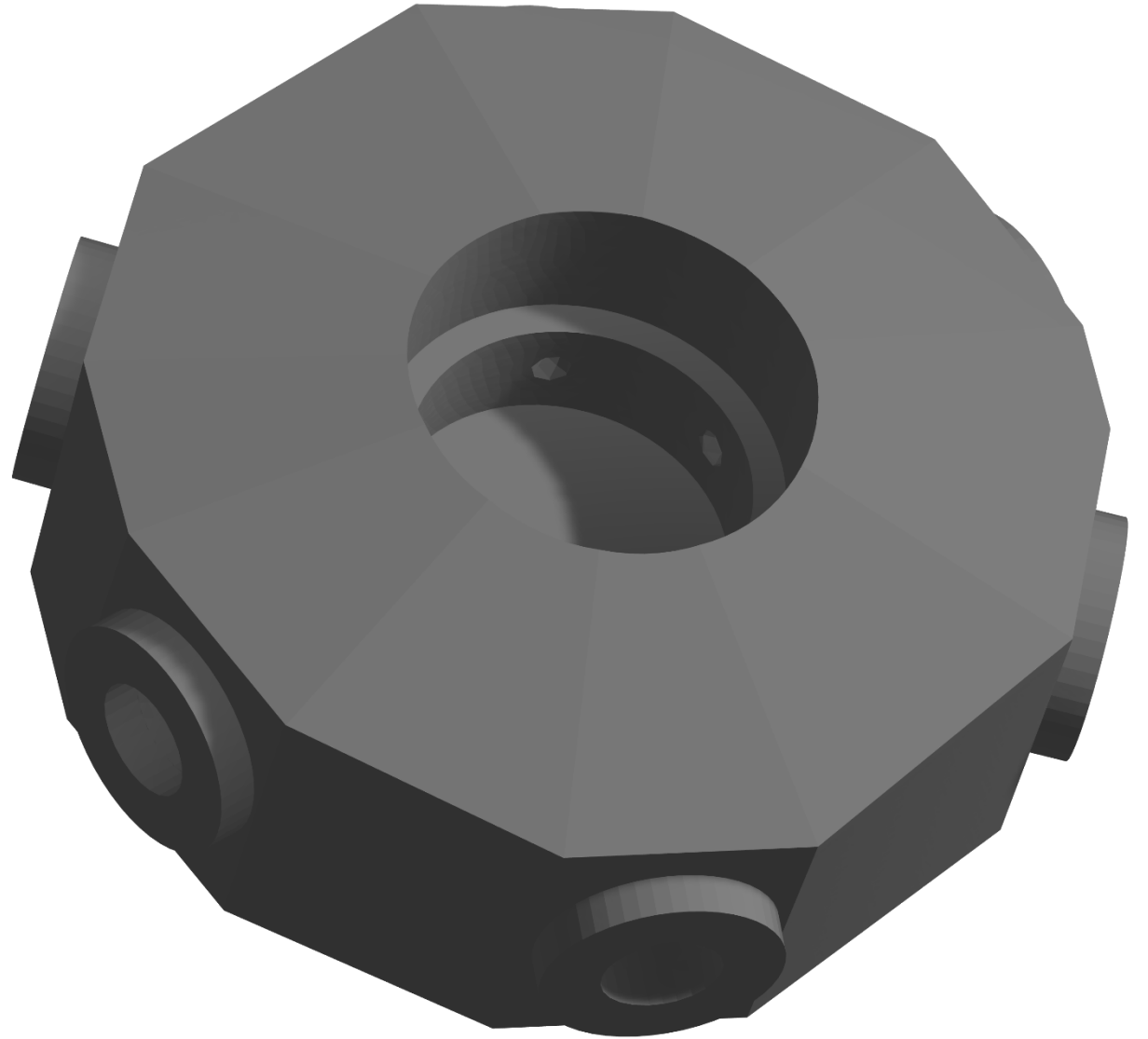
*aesthetics*

*Diameter* 240 mm

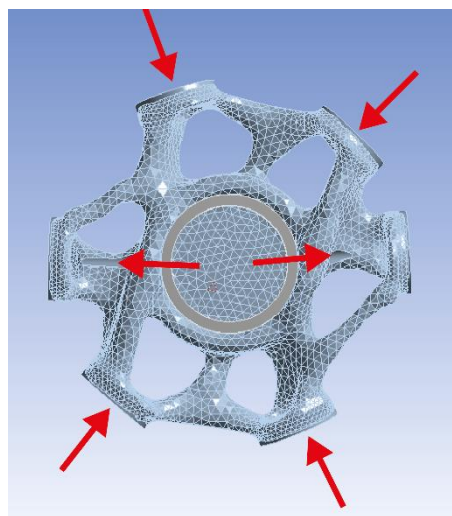
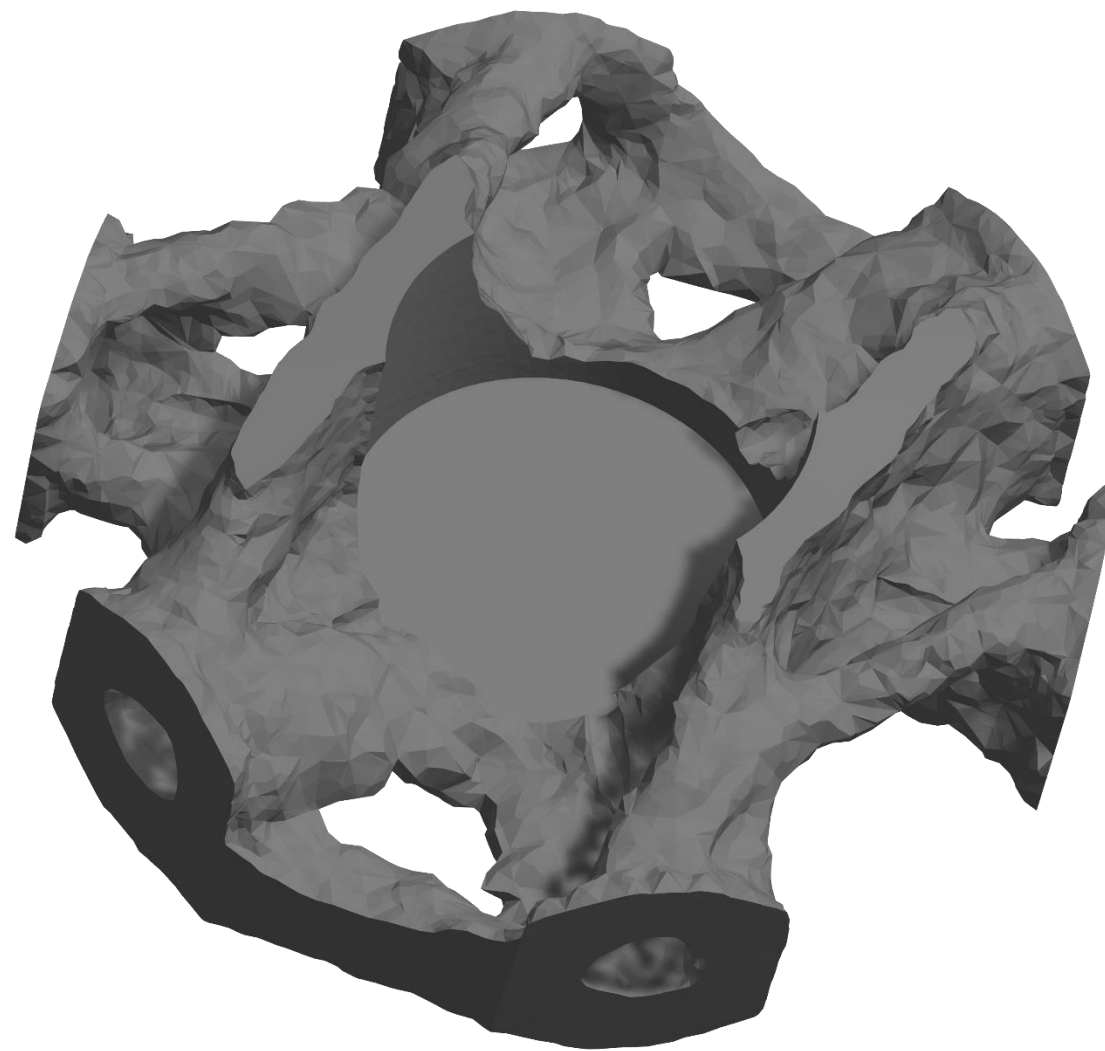
*Mass goal* -

*Section size limit* -

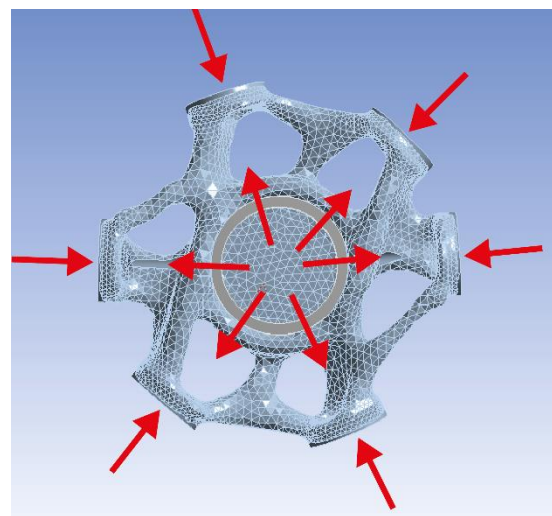
*Mass* 8.7 kg



|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 30%      |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 30-50 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 2.7 kg   |

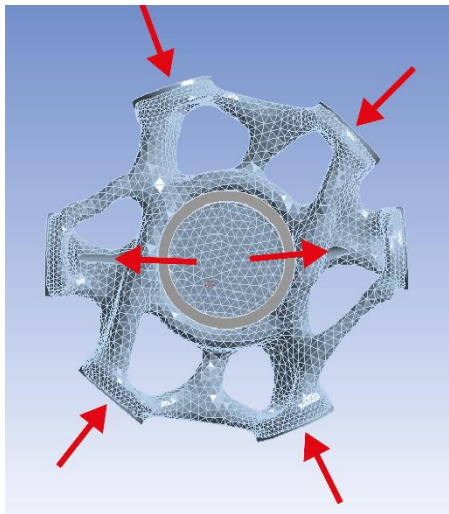
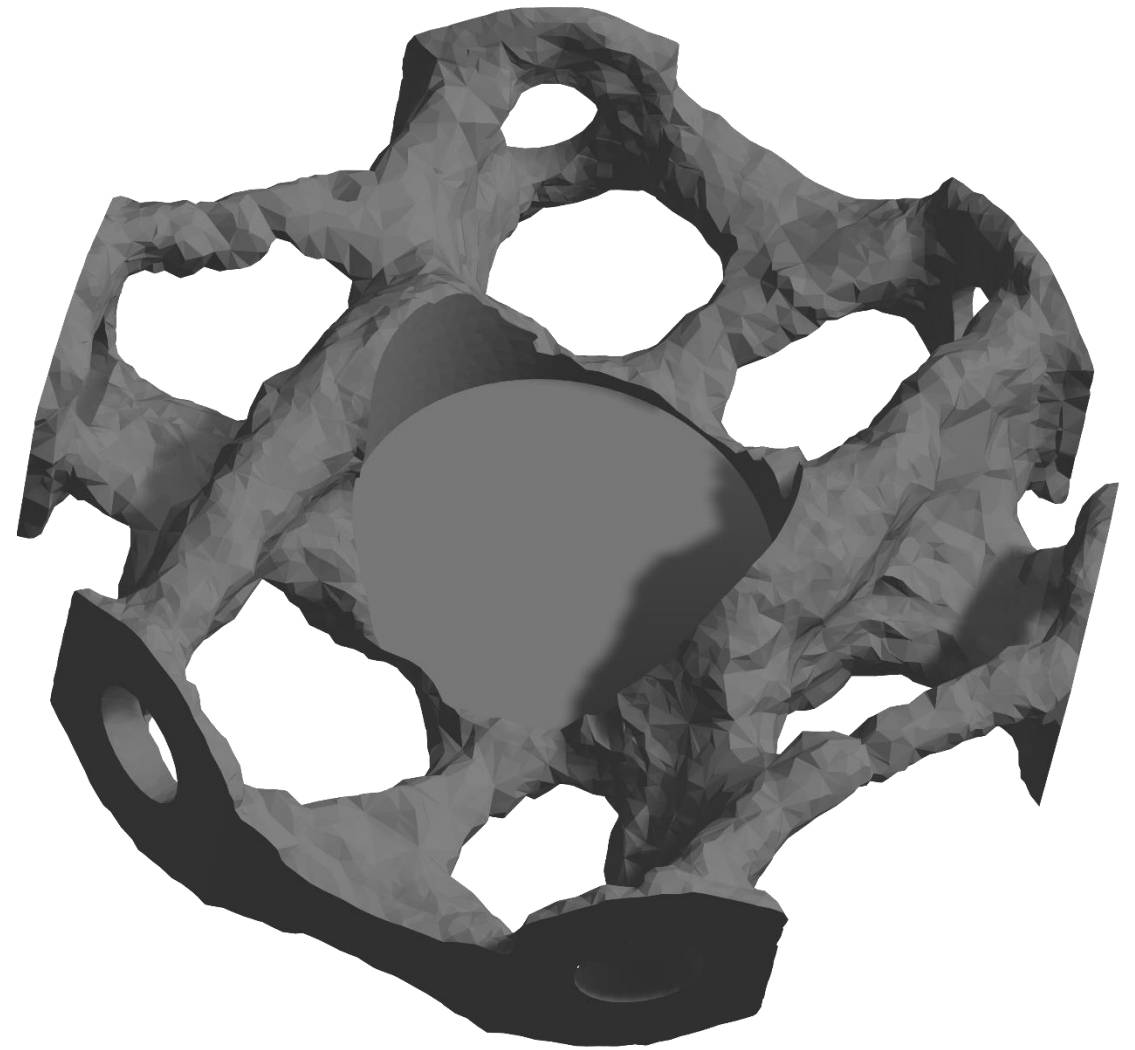


shell load

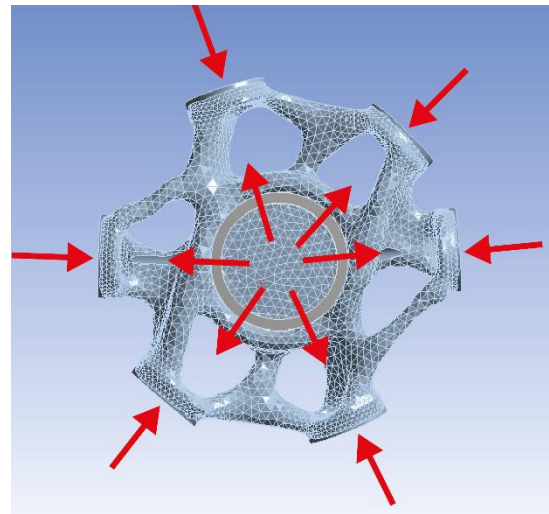


added load

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 20%      |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 30-50 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 1.8 kg   |

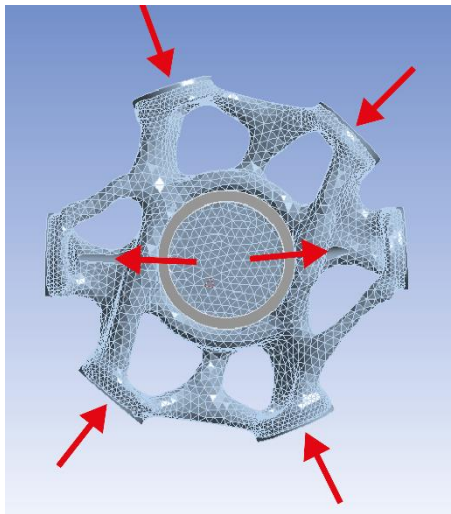
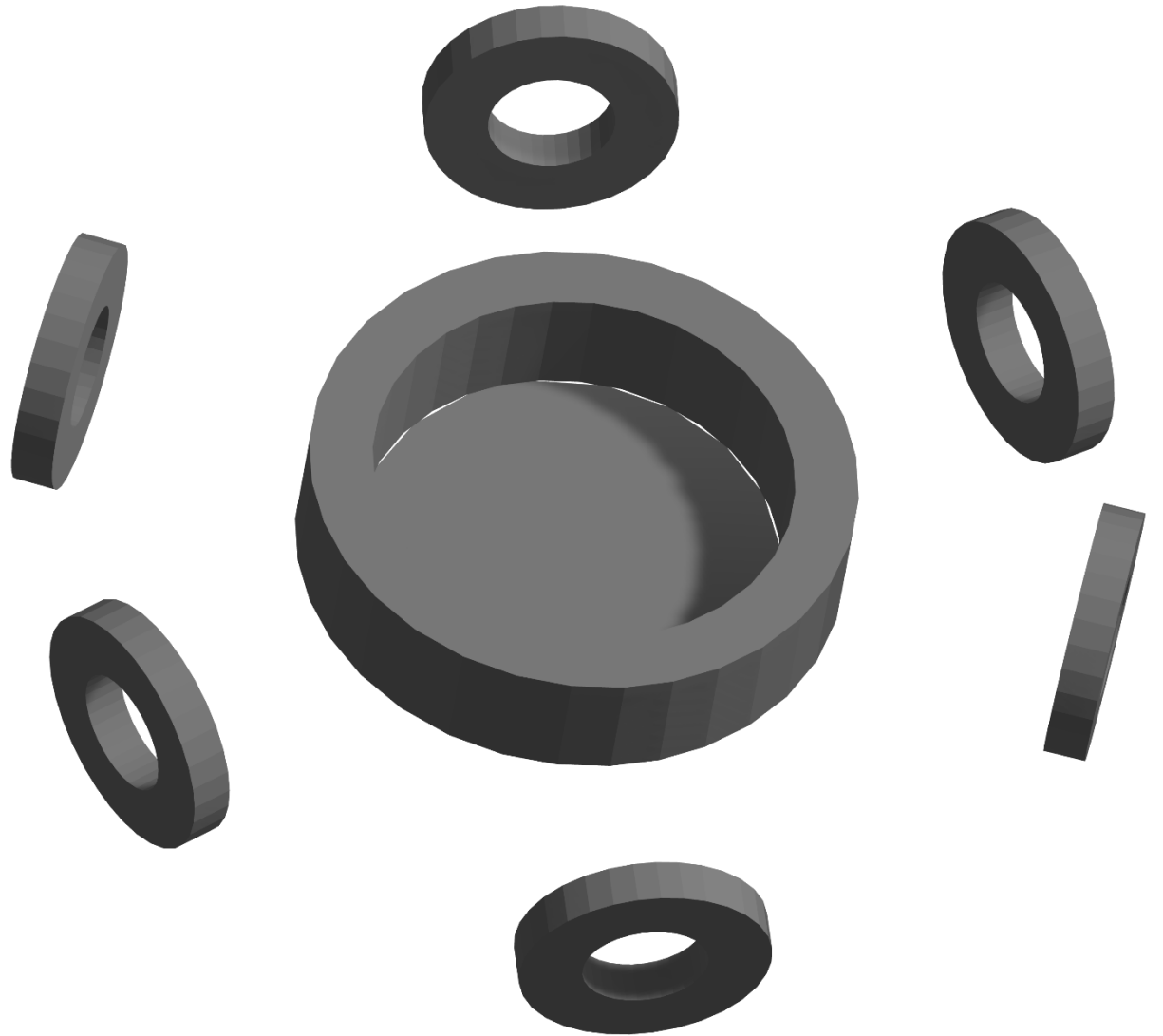


shell load

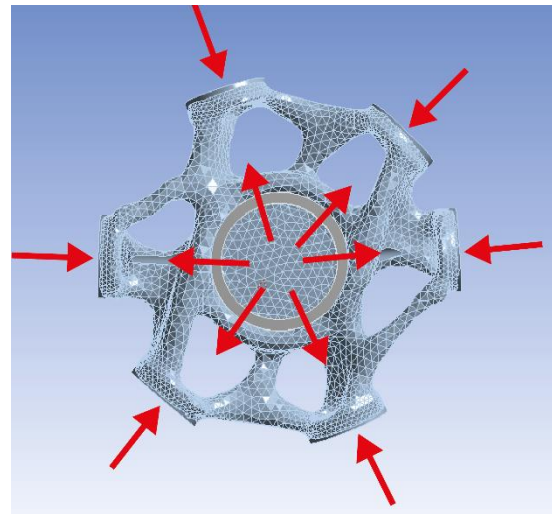


added load

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | -      |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | -      |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 0.5 kg |

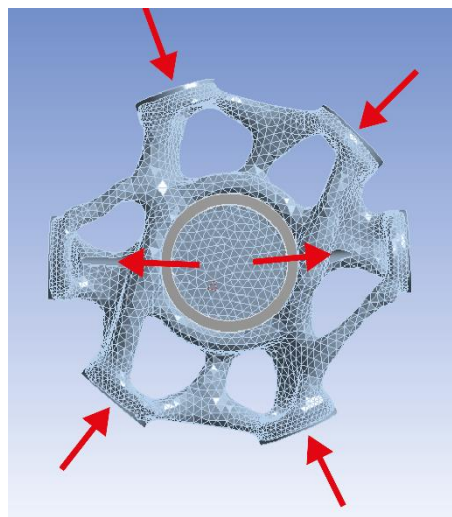
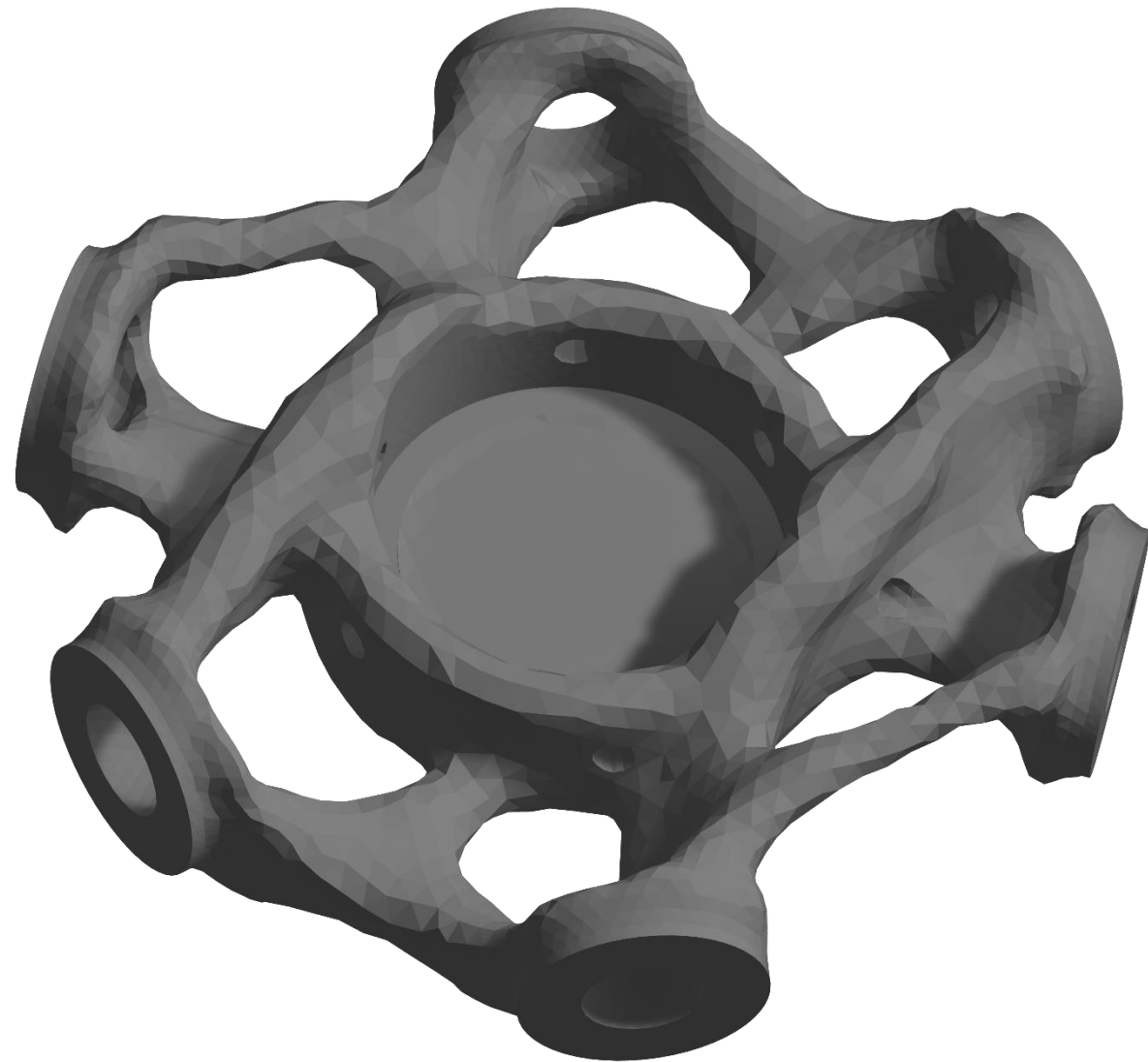


shell load

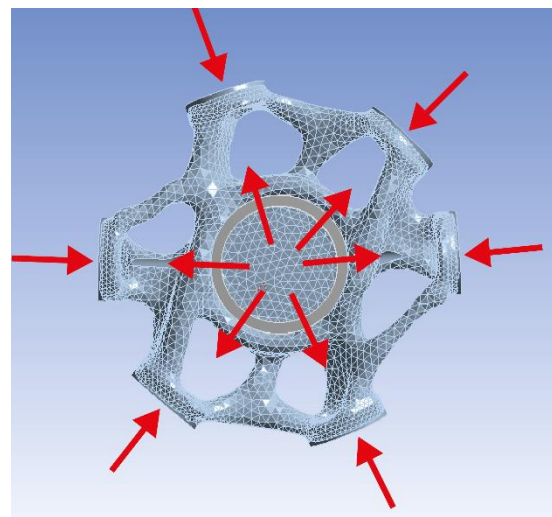


added load

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 20%      |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 30-50 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 2.2 kg   |



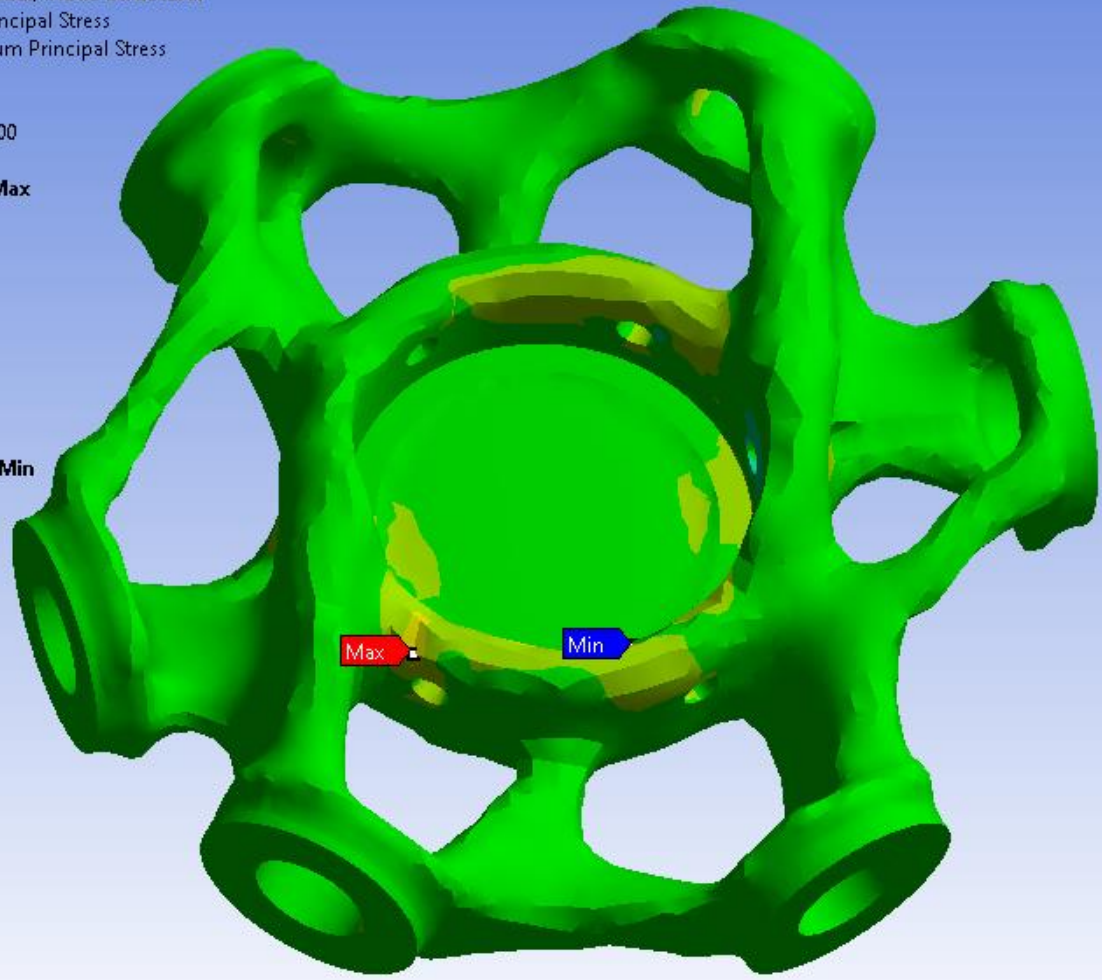
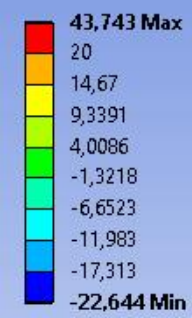
shell load



added load

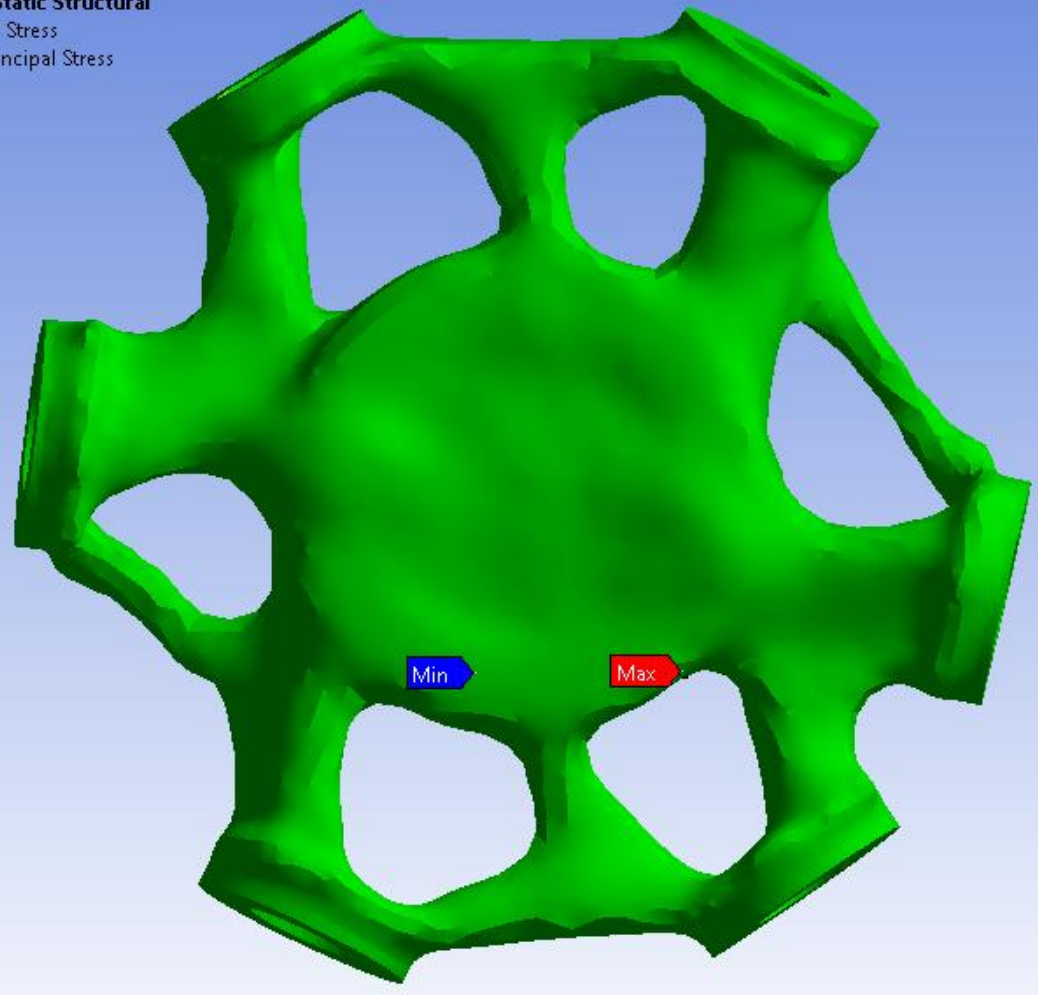
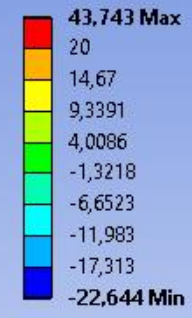
E: Copy of Model, Static Structural

Maximum Principal Stress  
Type: Maximum Principal Stress  
Unit: MPa  
Time: 1  
18-6-2019 18:00



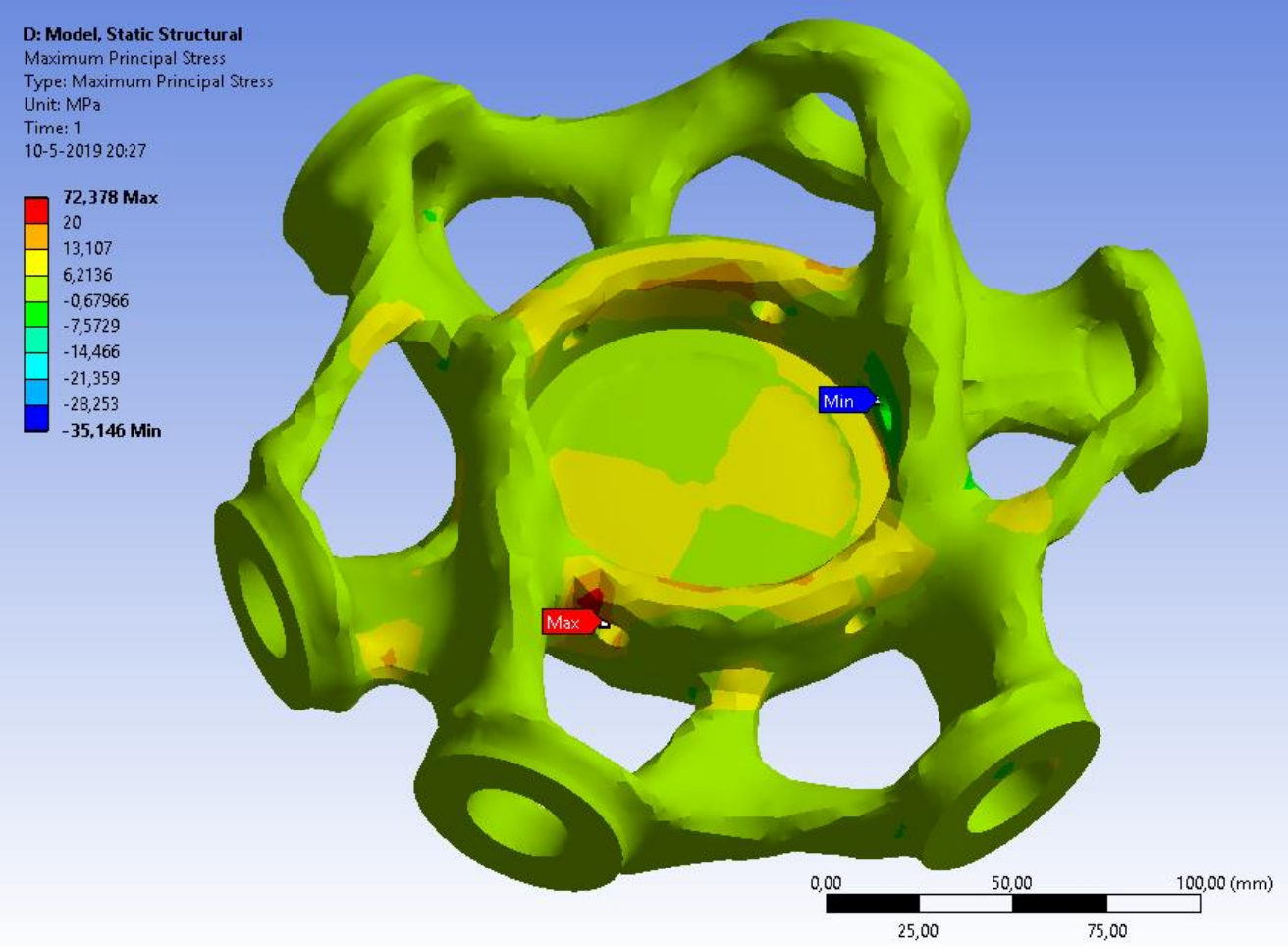
E: Copy of Model, Static Structural

Maximum Principal Stress  
Type: Maximum Principal Stress  
Unit: MPa  
Time: 1  
18-6-2019 18:00



stresses





wind load

## **Topology optimisation**

*Efficient material distribution, for a specific loadcase*

*Dealing with changing loads*



self load and external load

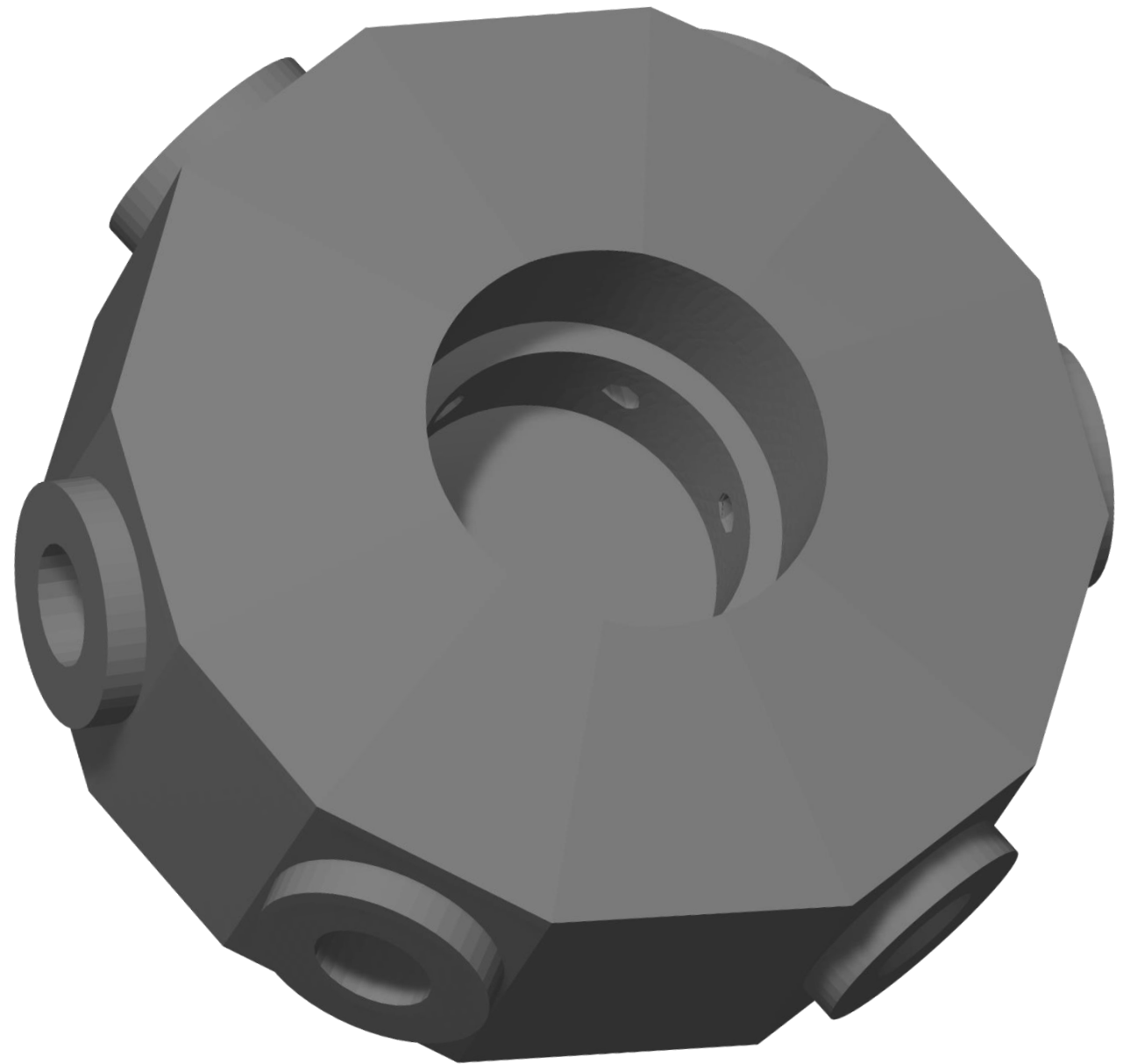
**Topology optimisation**  
*combined optimisation*  
*increased mass*

*Diameter* 240 mm

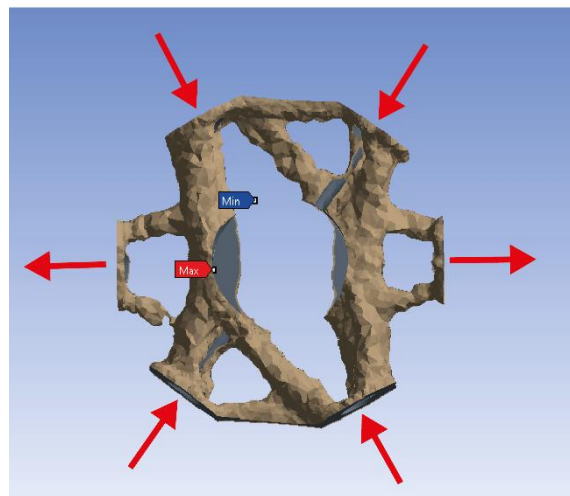
*Mass goal* -

*Section size limit* -

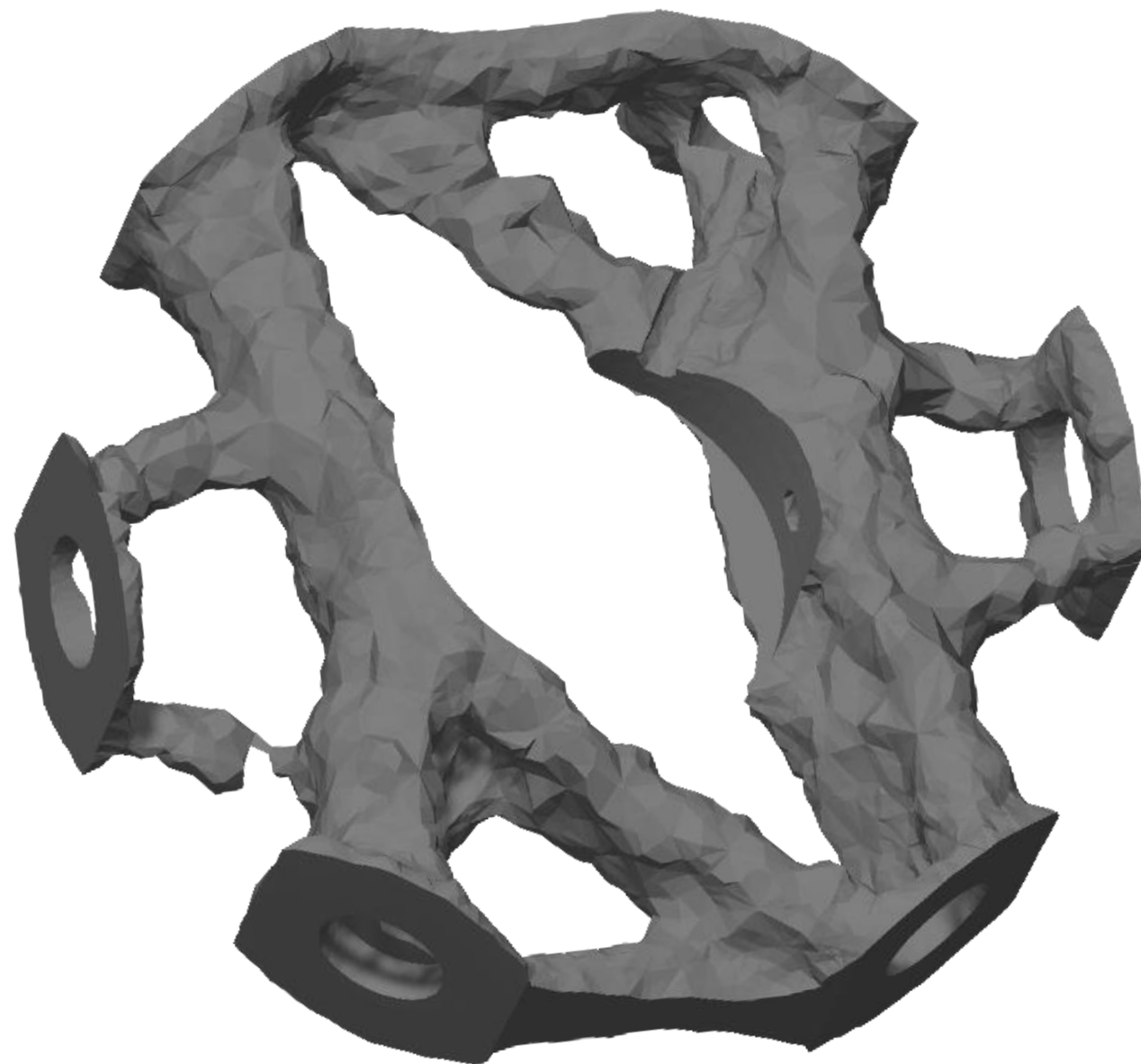
*Mass* 8.7 kg



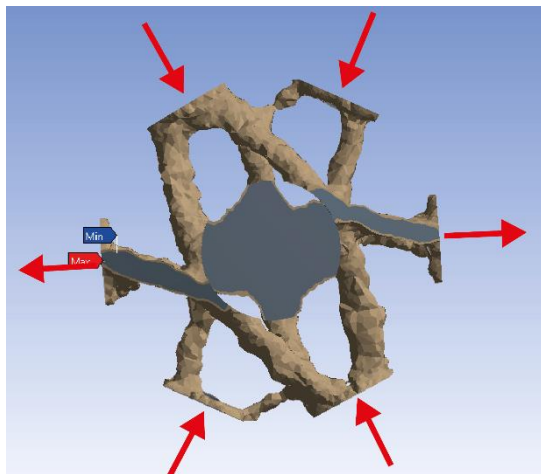
|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 15%      |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 20-50 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 1.6 kg   |



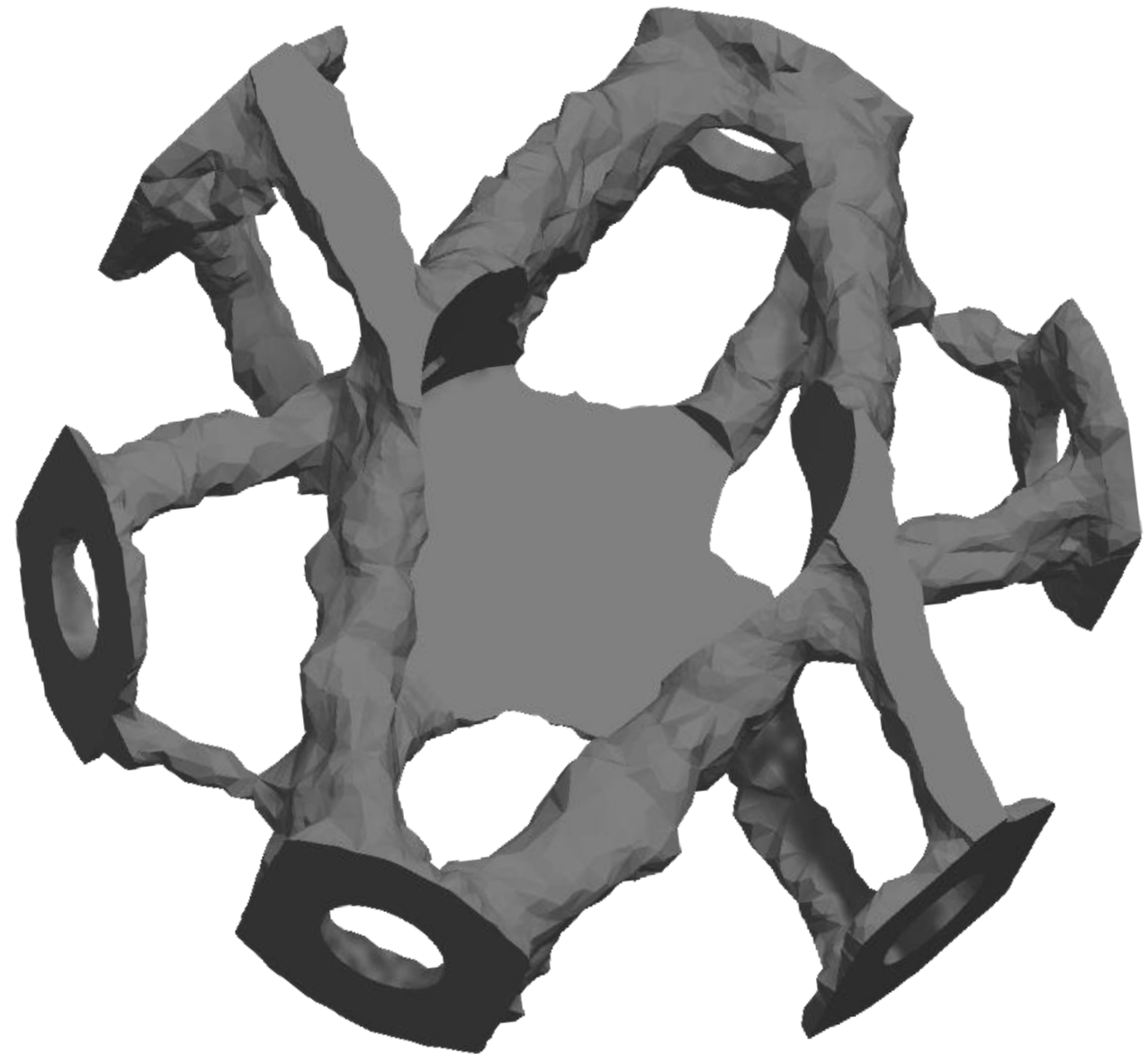
shell load



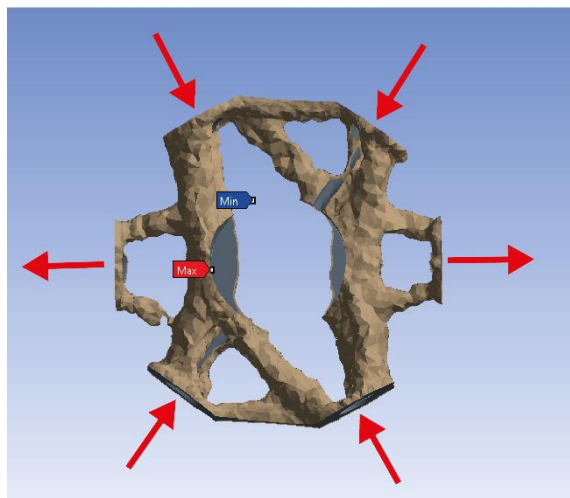
|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 15%      |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 20-50 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 1.4 kg   |



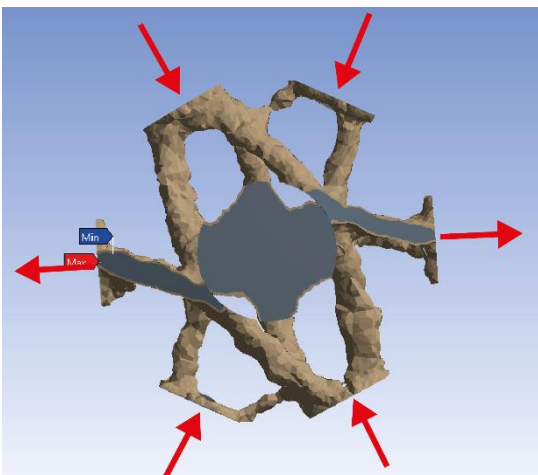
wind load



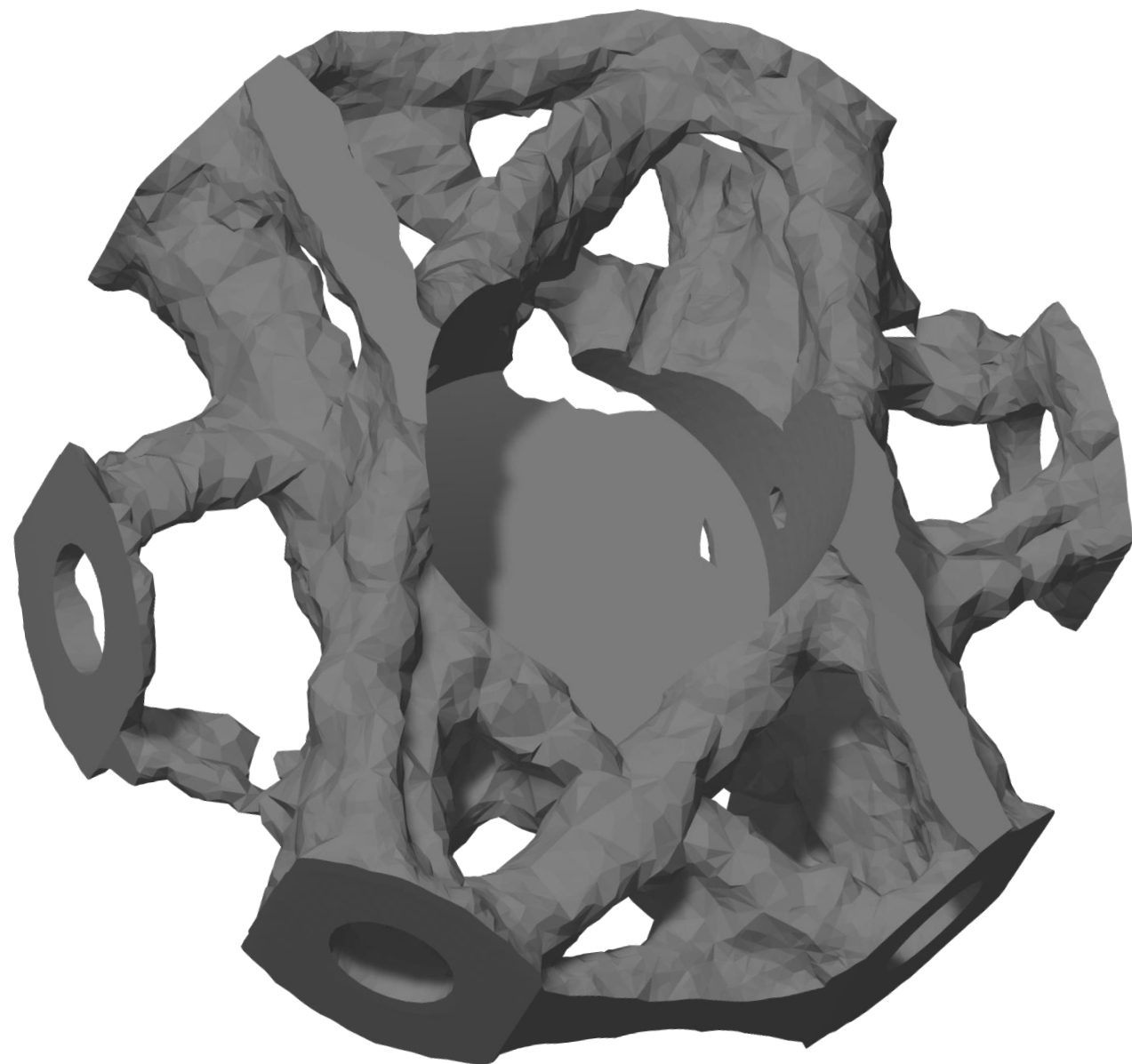
|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 15%/15%  |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 20-50 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 2.4 kg   |



shell load

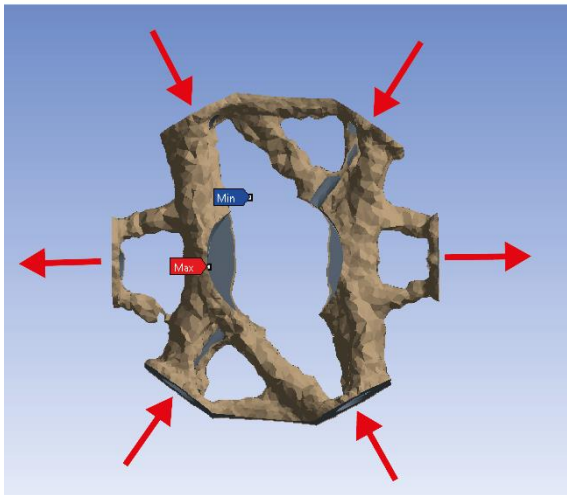
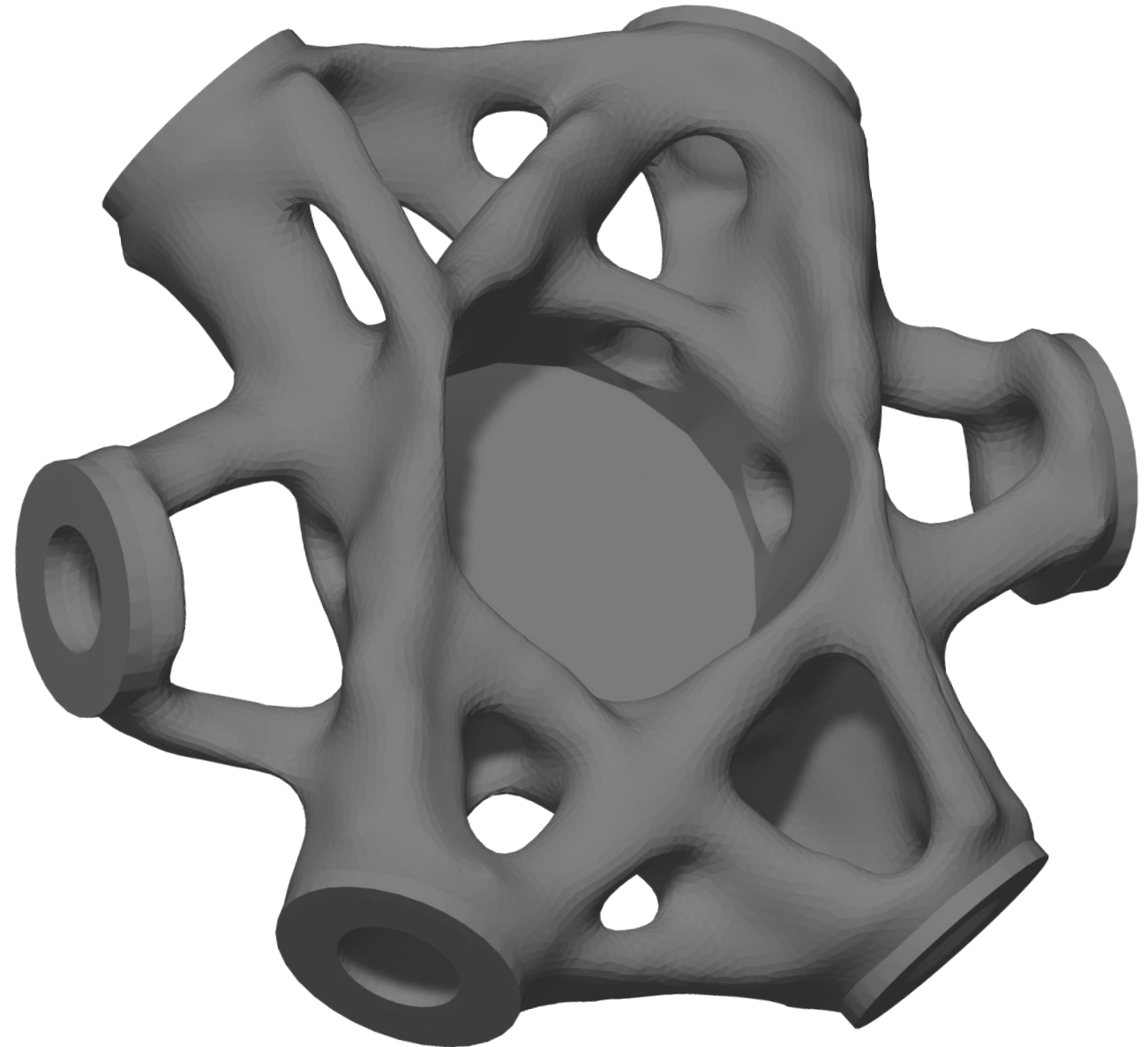


wind load

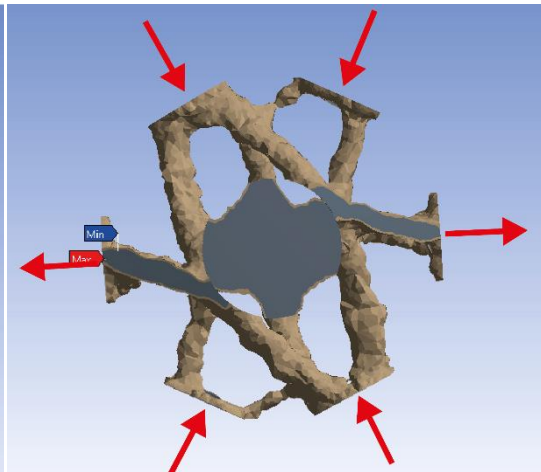




|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 15%/15%  |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 20-50 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 2.7 kg   |

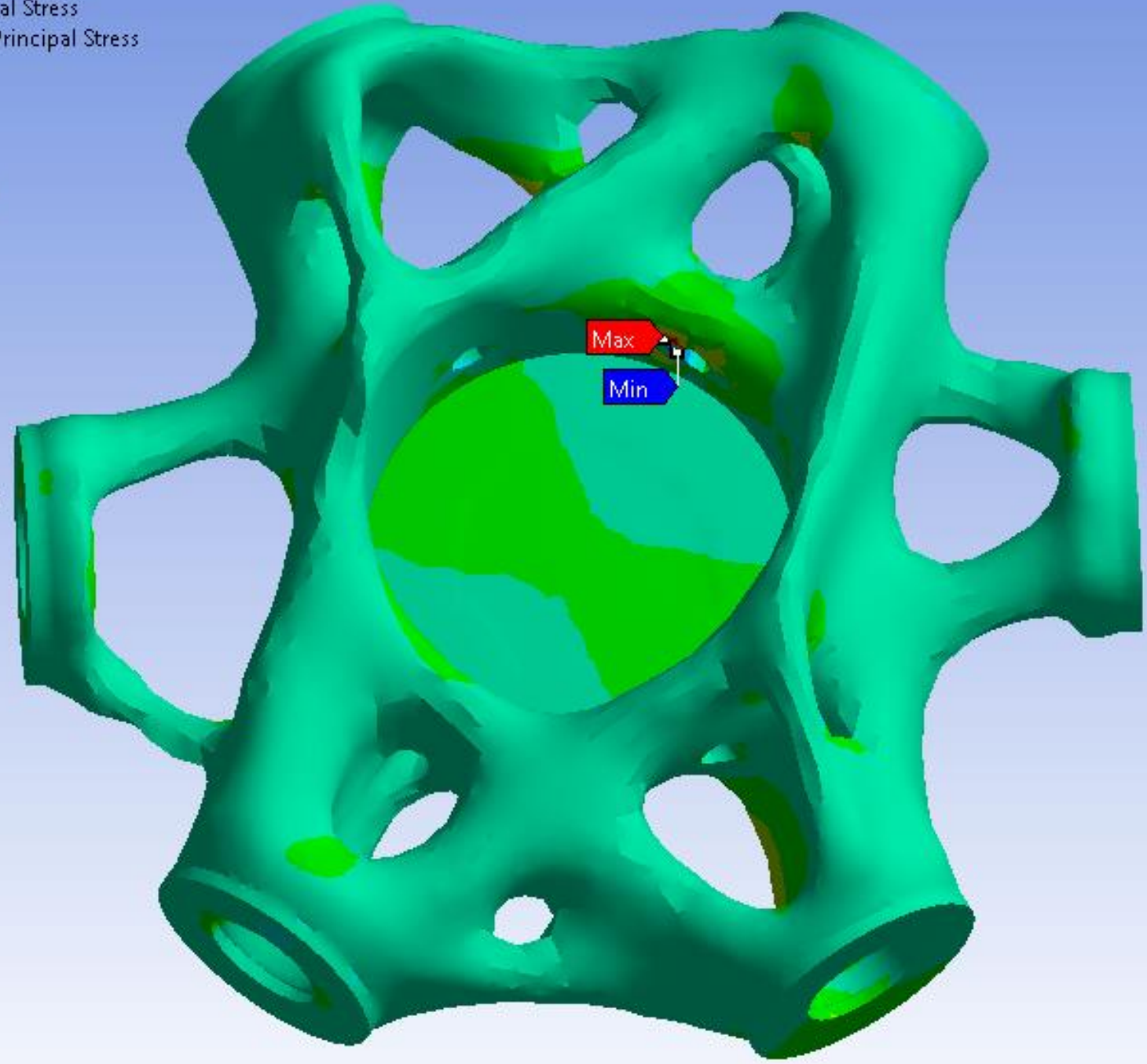
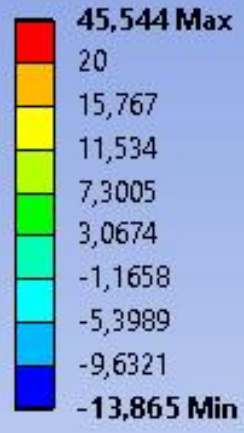


shell load



wind load

**G: Model, Static Structural**  
Maximum Principal Stress  
Type: Maximum Principal Stress  
Unit: MPa  
Time: 1  
12-6-2019 10:51



**G: Model, Static Structural**

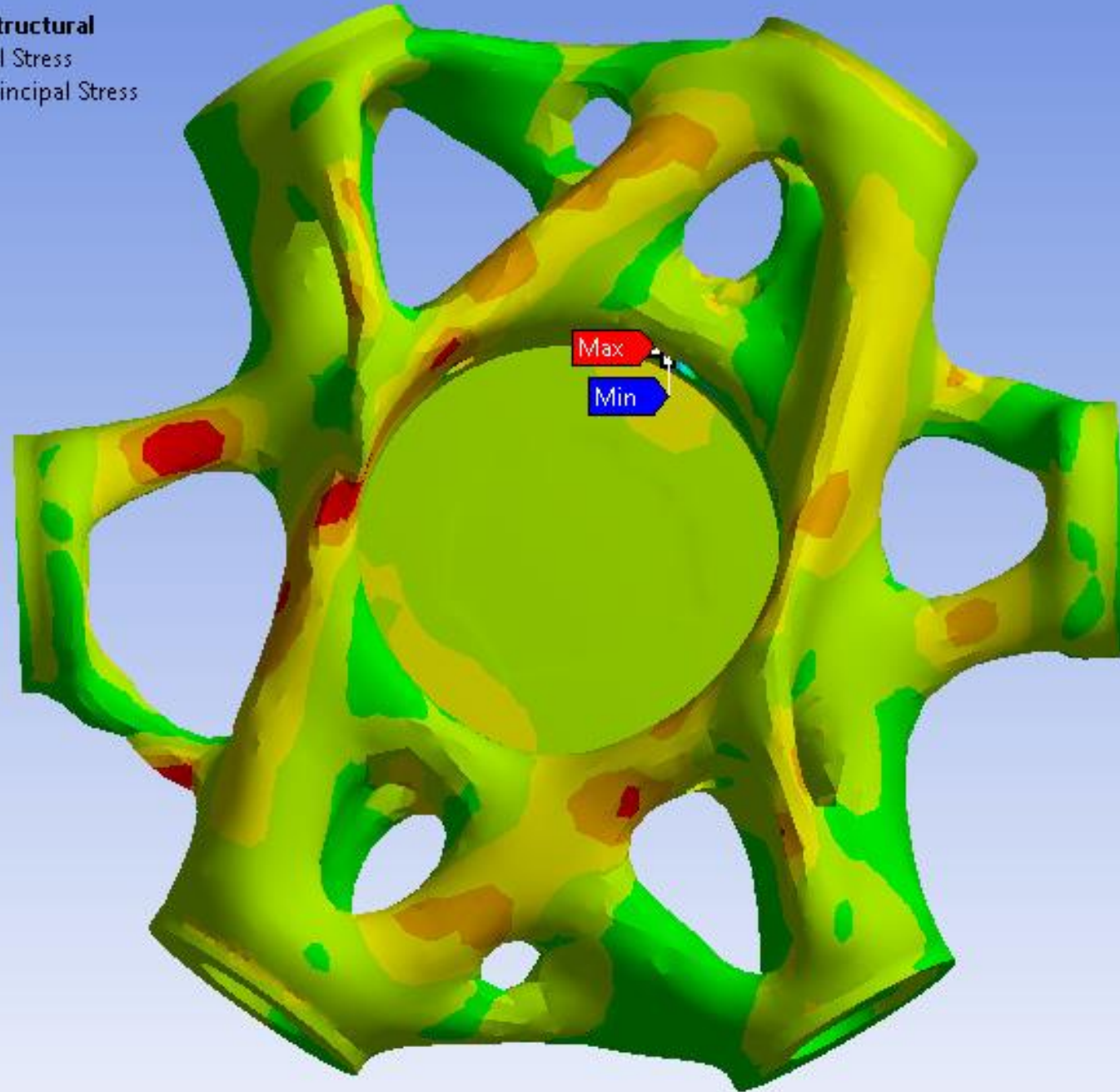
Maximum Principal Stress

Type: Maximum Principal Stress

Unit: MPa

Time: 1

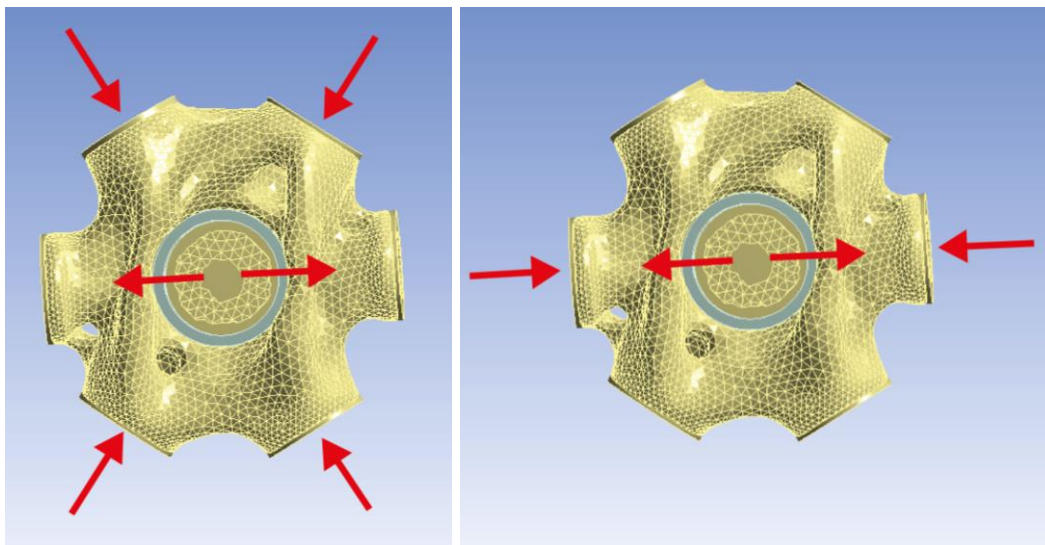
12-6-2019 10:56



|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm  |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | -       |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | -       |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 10.8 kg |

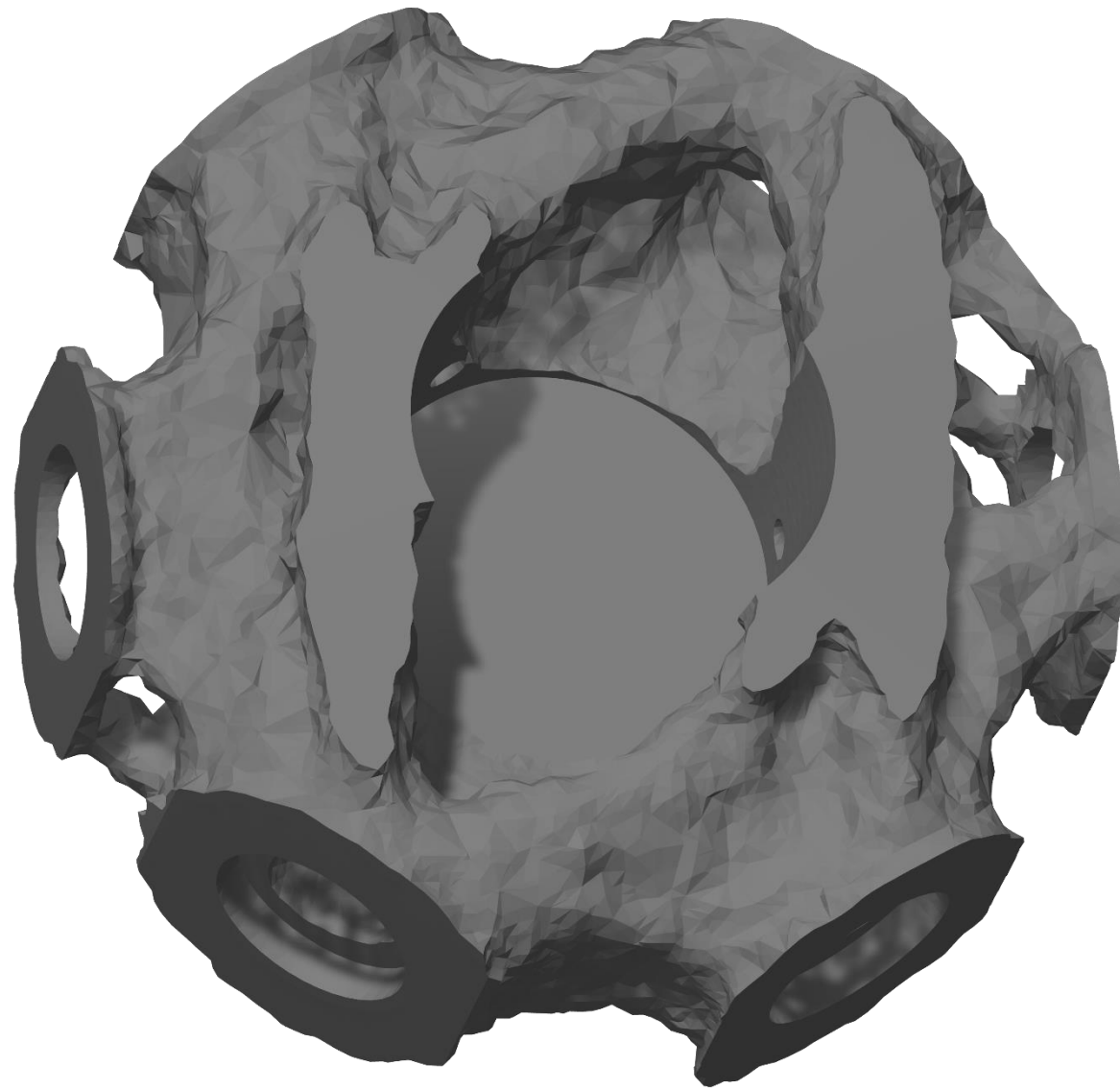


|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 37%      |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 20-40 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 4.2 kg   |

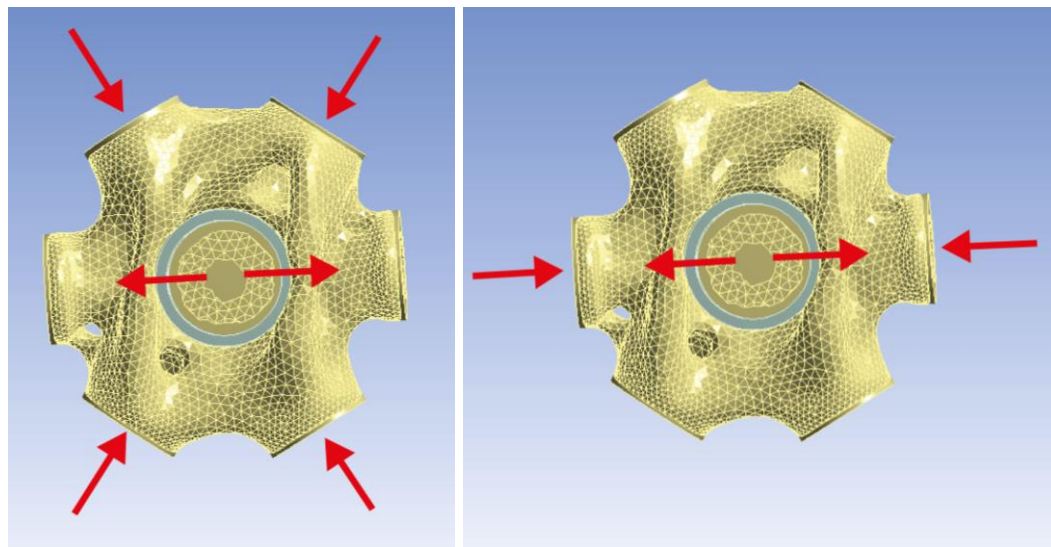


shell load

added load

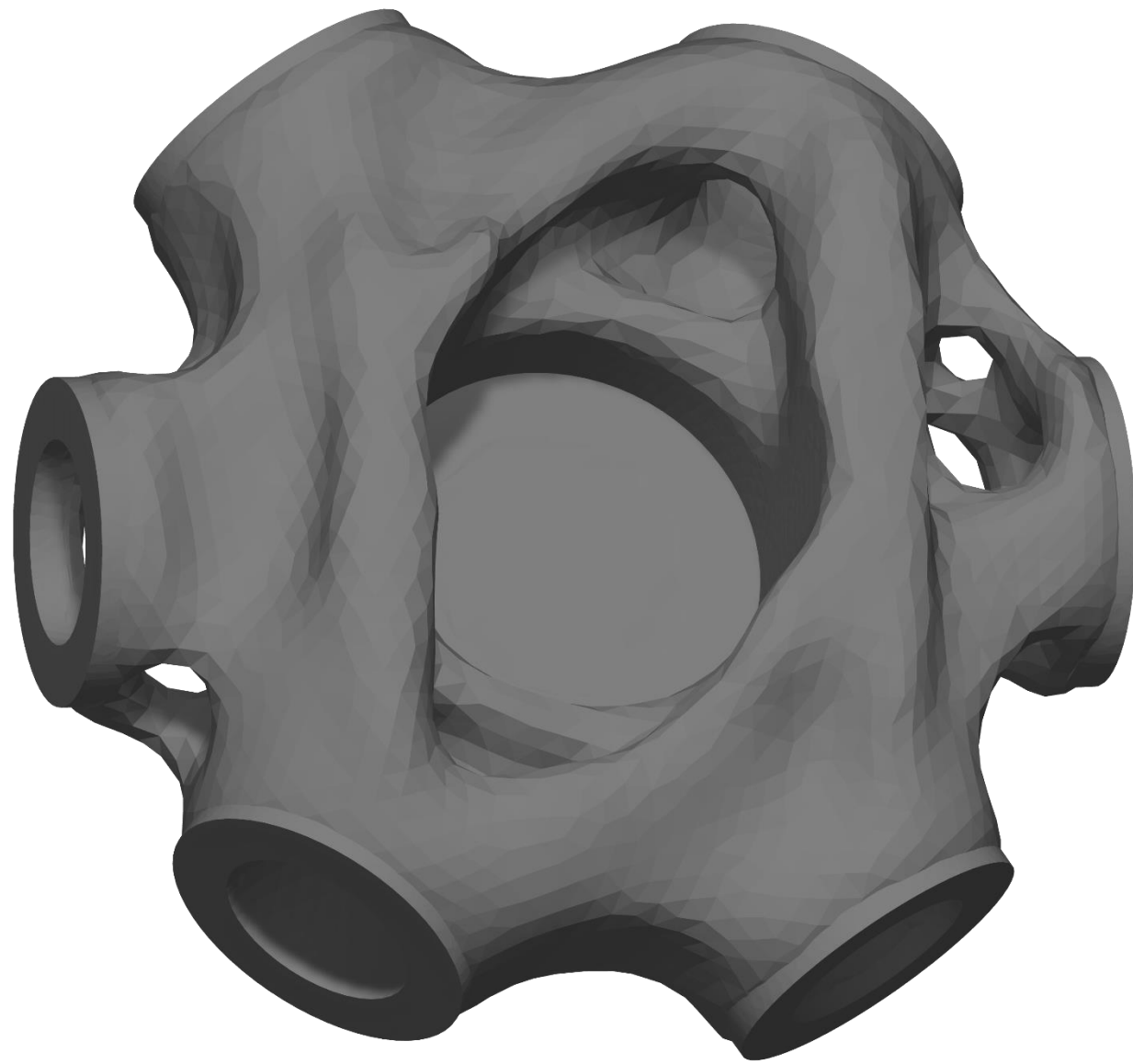


|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <i>Diameter</i>           | 240 mm   |
| <i>Mass goal</i>          | 37%      |
| <i>Section size limit</i> | 20-40 mm |
| <i>Mass</i>               | 5.1 kg   |

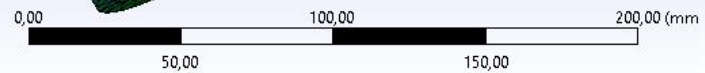
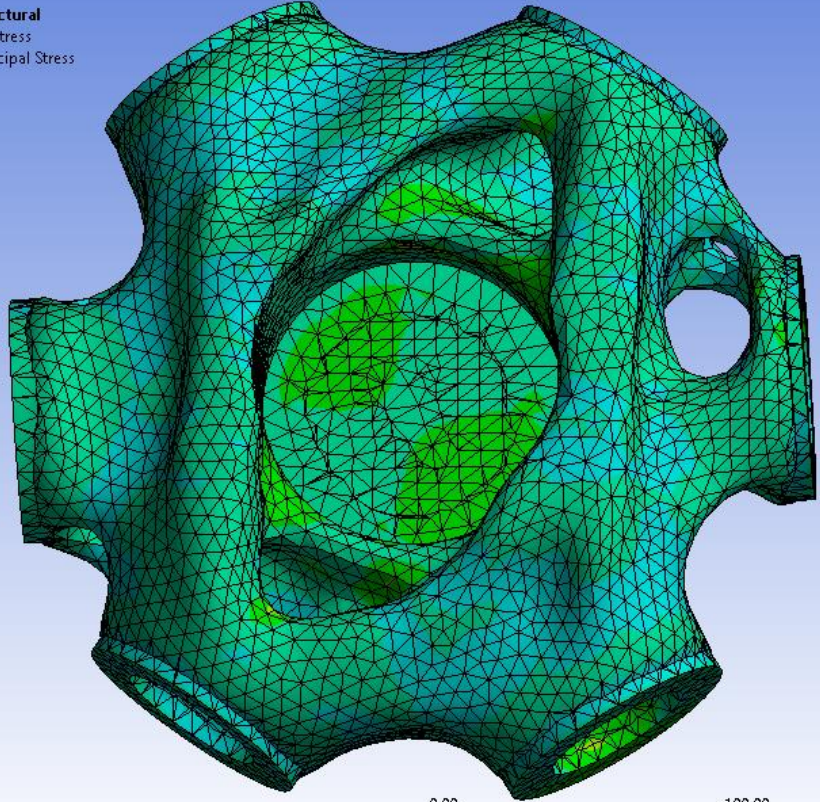
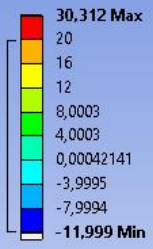


shell load

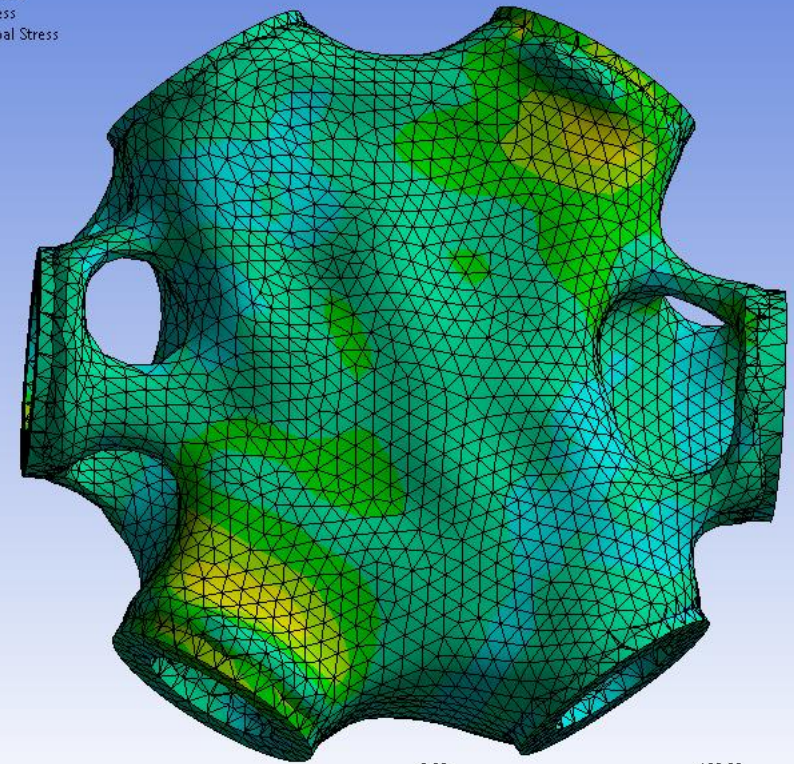
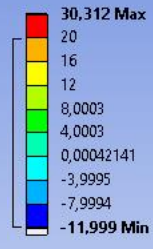
added load



**J: Model, Static Structural**  
Maximum Principal Stress  
Type: Maximum Principal Stress  
Unit: MPa  
Time: 1  
10-5-2019 21:09



**J: Model, Static Structural**  
Maximum Principal Stress  
Type: Maximum Principal Stress  
Unit: MPa  
Time: 1  
10-5-2019 21:09



wind load

Annealing times



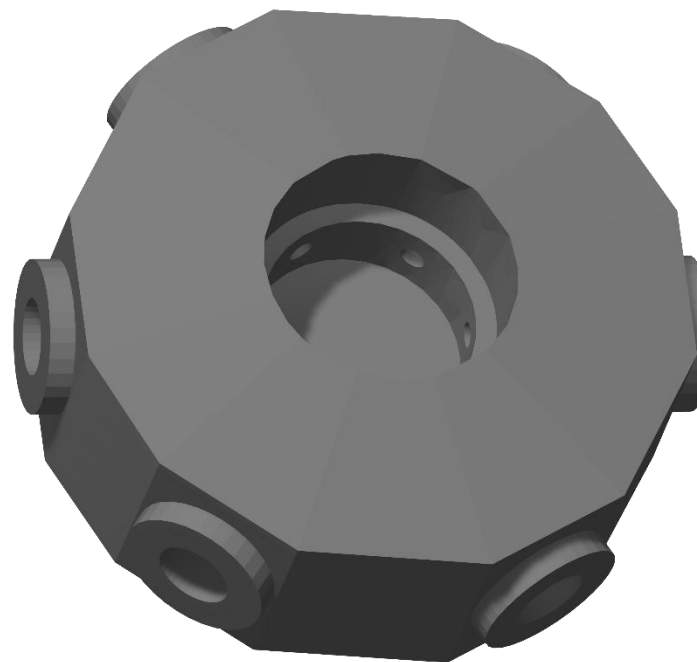
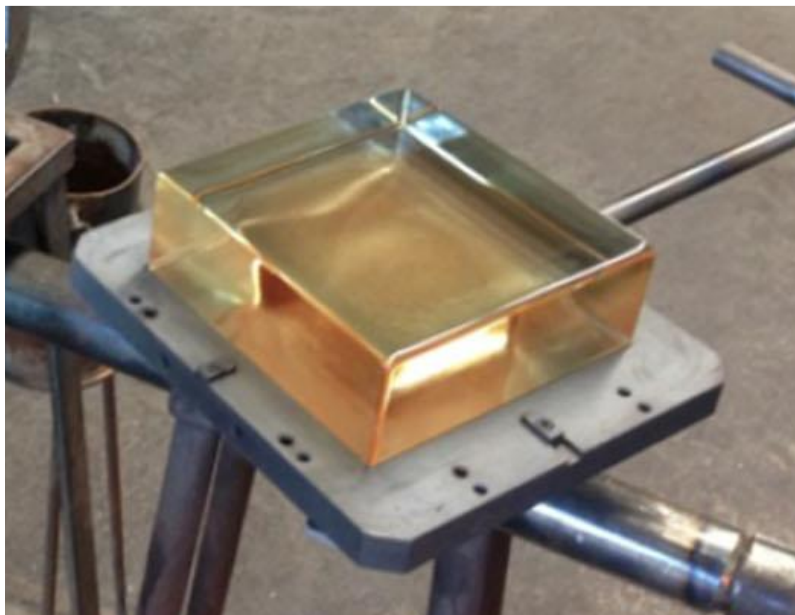


MVRDV

*Agent Provocateur*

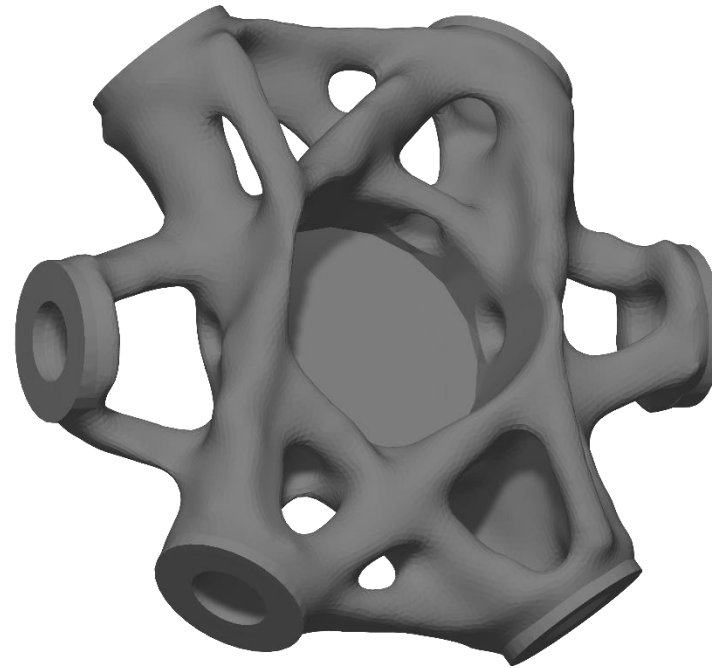
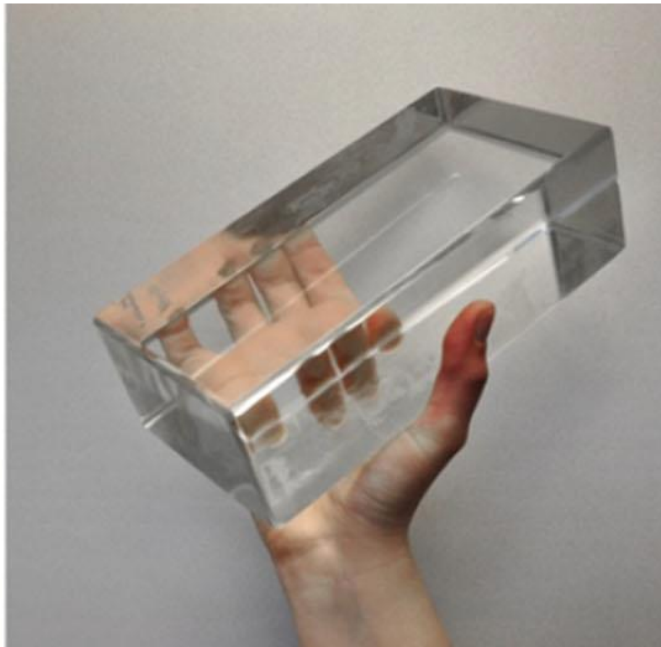
CHANEL

GINNE FONTAINE

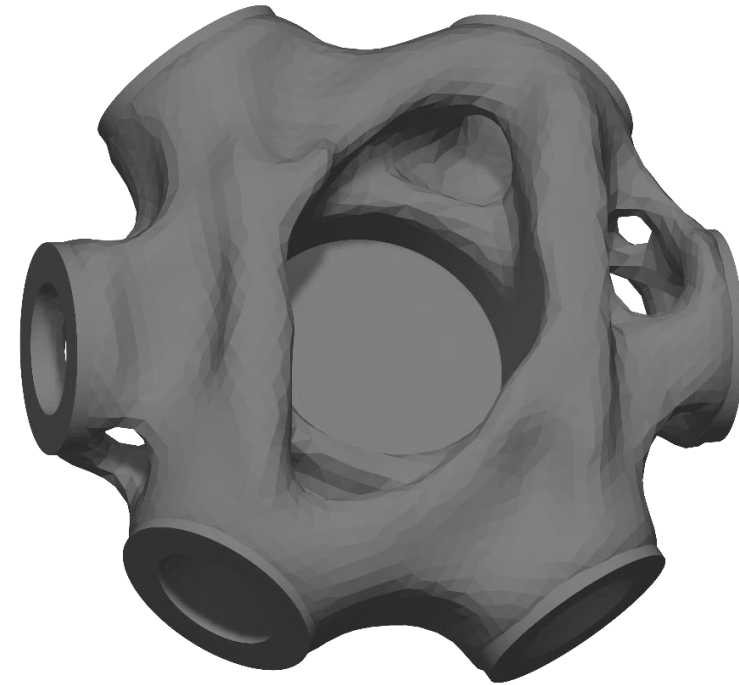


|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Object</i>    | Crystal House brick |
| <i>Size</i>      | 210 x 210 x 65 mm   |
| <i>Mass</i>      | 7.2 kg              |
| <i>Annealing</i> | 38 h                |

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
|   | Un-optimised node    |
|   | 240 x 240 x 95 mm    |
|   | 9 kg                 |
| > | <b>approx. 48+ h</b> |

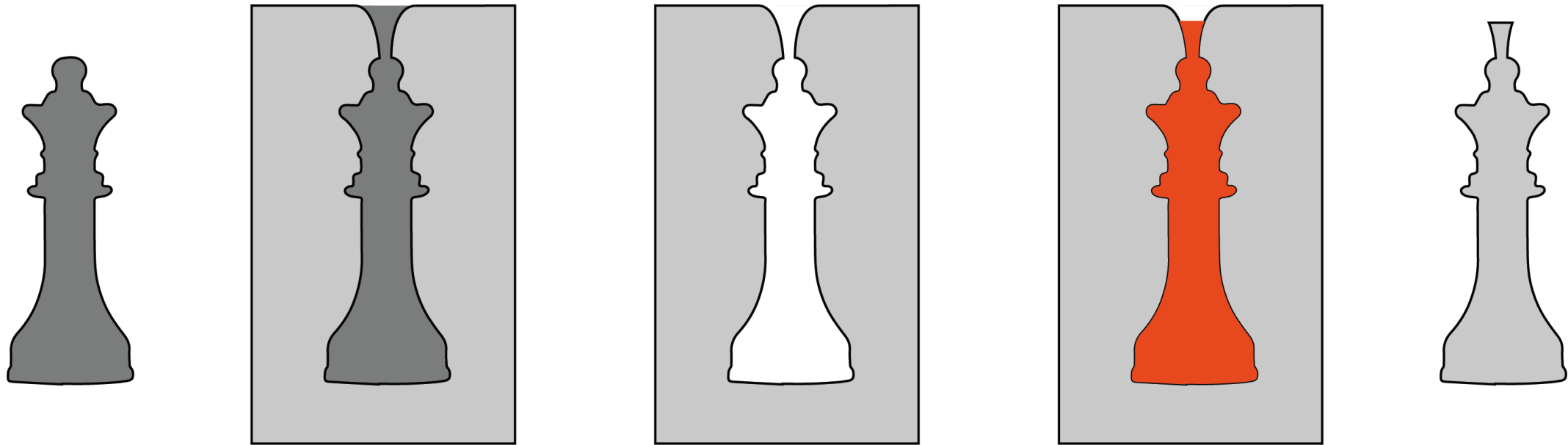


|                  |                     |                         |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Object</i>    | Crystal House brick | Two-load optimised node |
| <i>Size</i>      | 210 x 105 x 65 mm   | Max 30 mm section       |
| <i>Mass</i>      | 3.6 kg              | 2.7 kg                  |
| <i>Annealing</i> | 8 h                 | > <b>approx. 4 h</b>    |



|                  |                     |                       |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Object</i>    | Crystal House brick | Heavy optimised node  |
| <i>Size</i>      | 210 x 167.5 x 65 mm | Max 40 mm section     |
| <i>Mass</i>      | 5.4 kg              | 5.1 kg                |
| <i>Annealing</i> | 20 h                | > <b>approx. 16 h</b> |

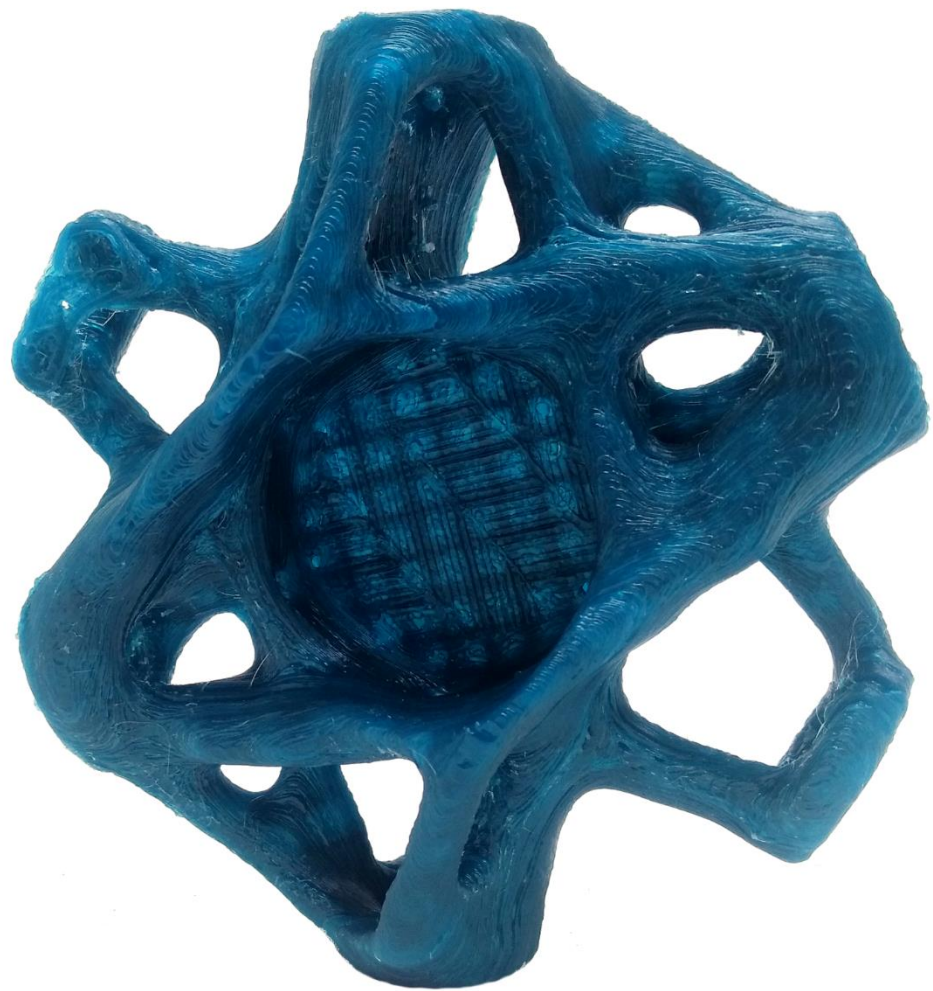
prototyping



lost-wax casting



sand mould casting

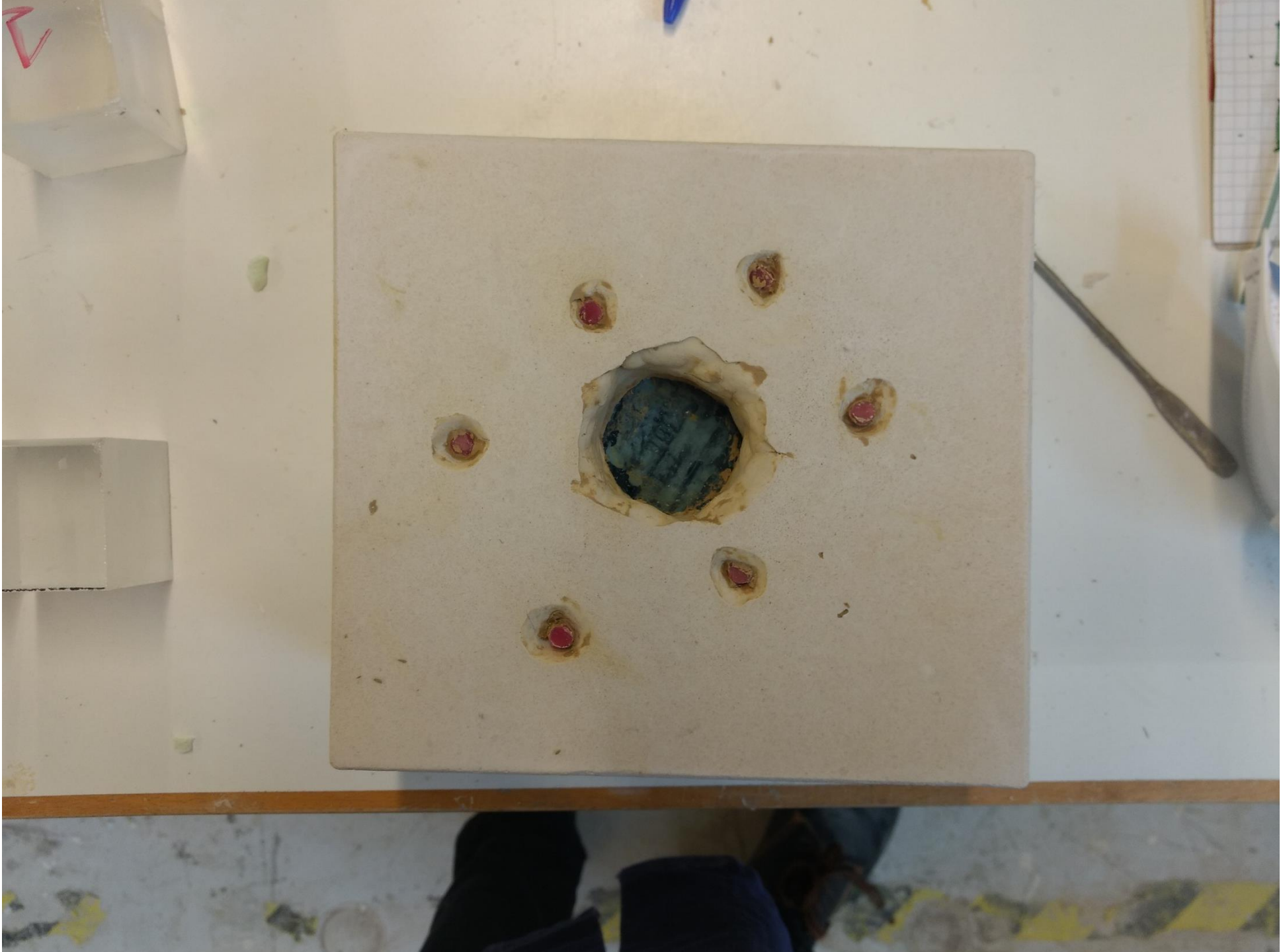


printed wax node





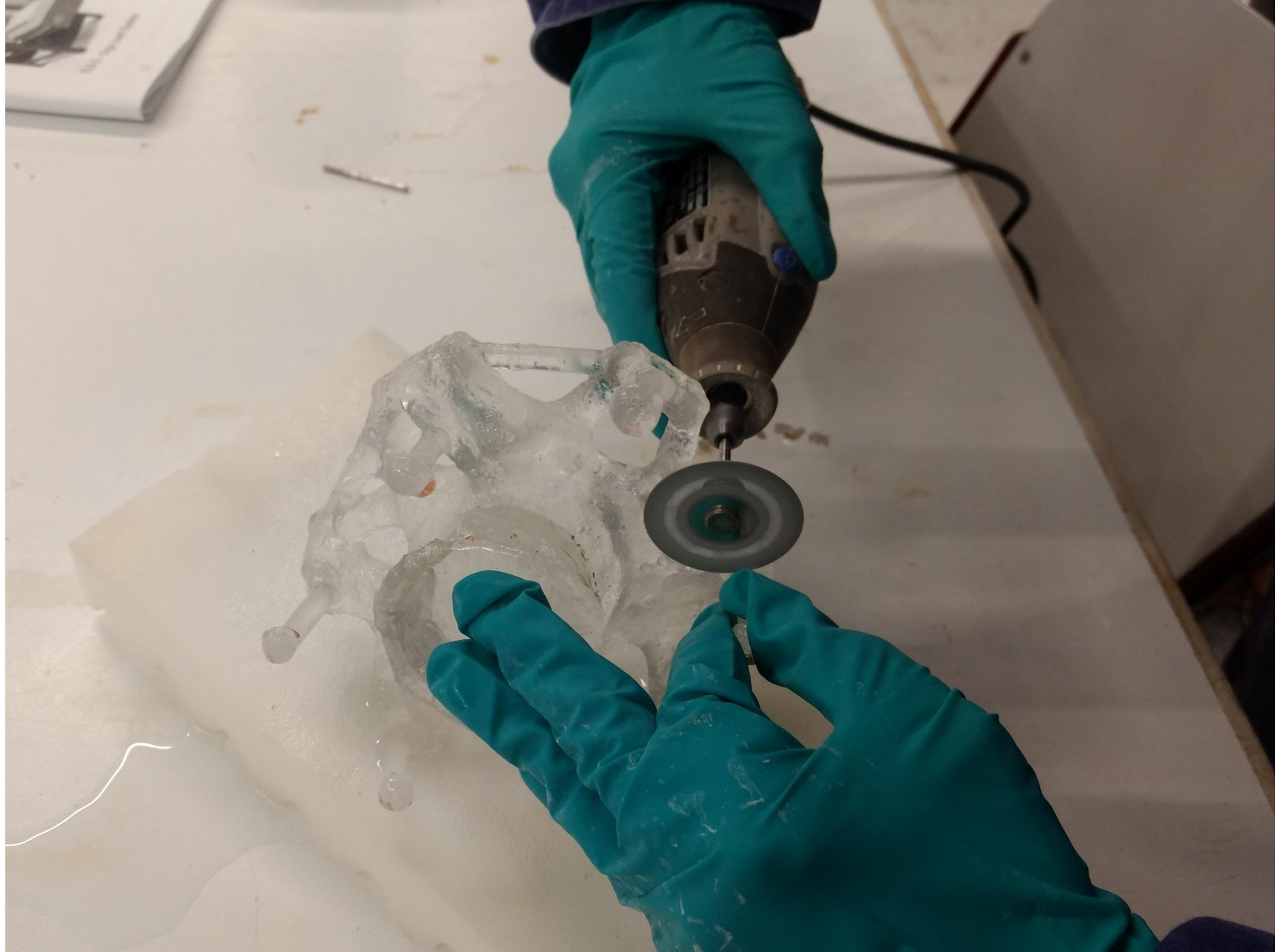








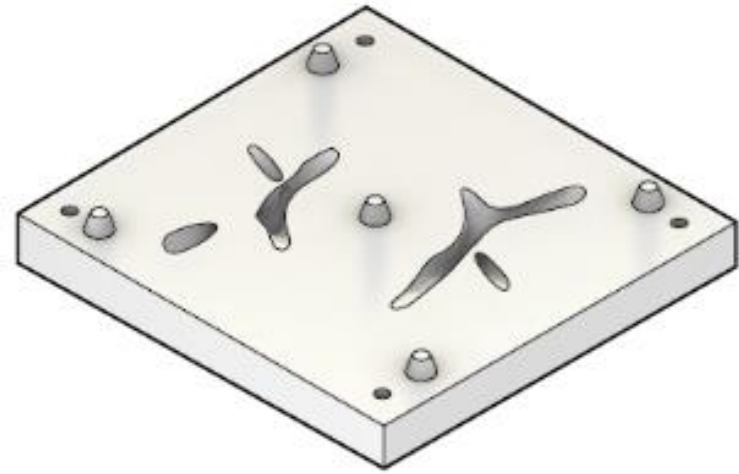
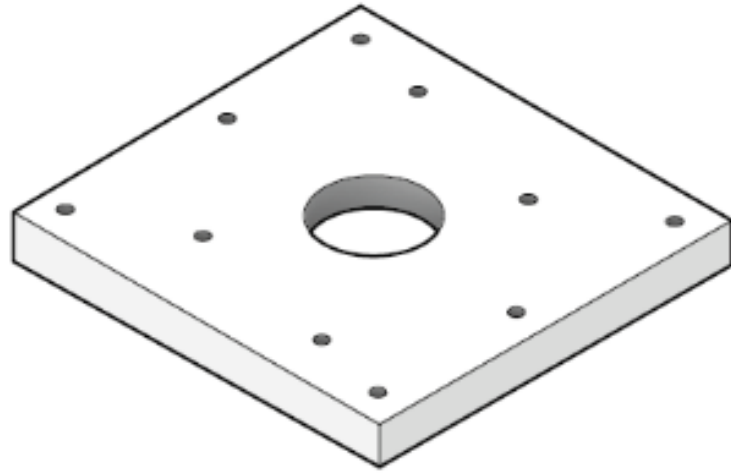




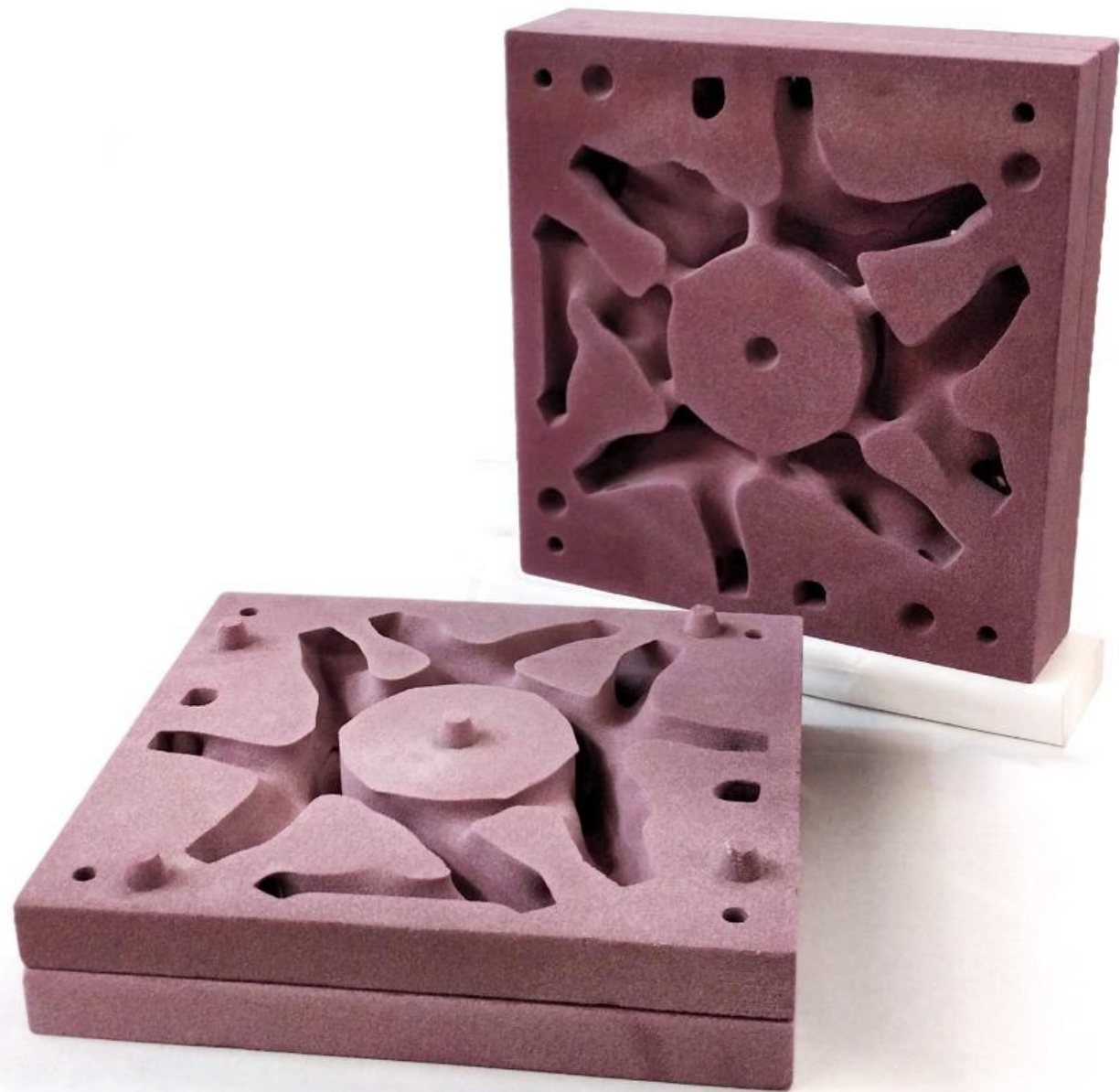




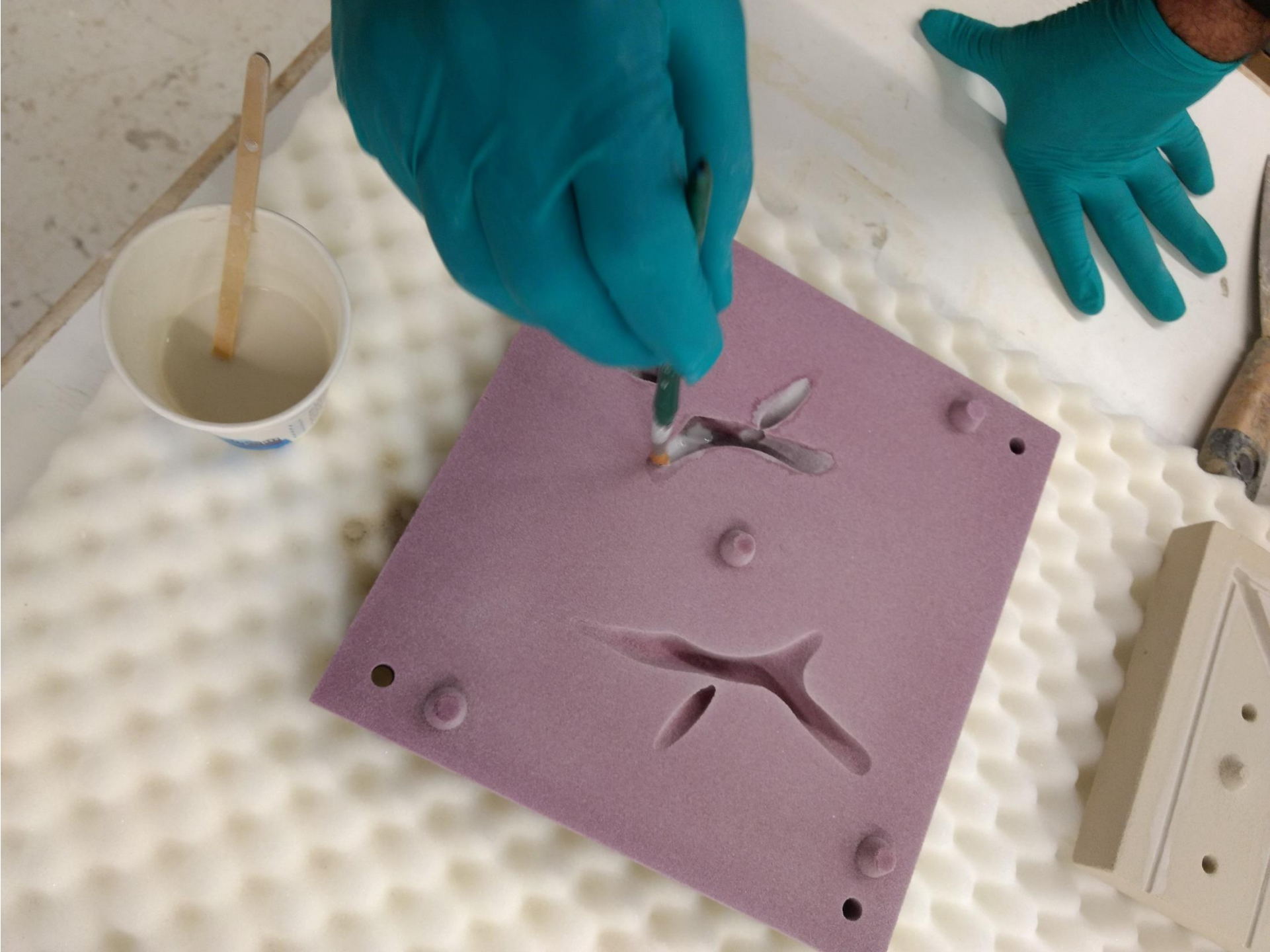




sand mould casting





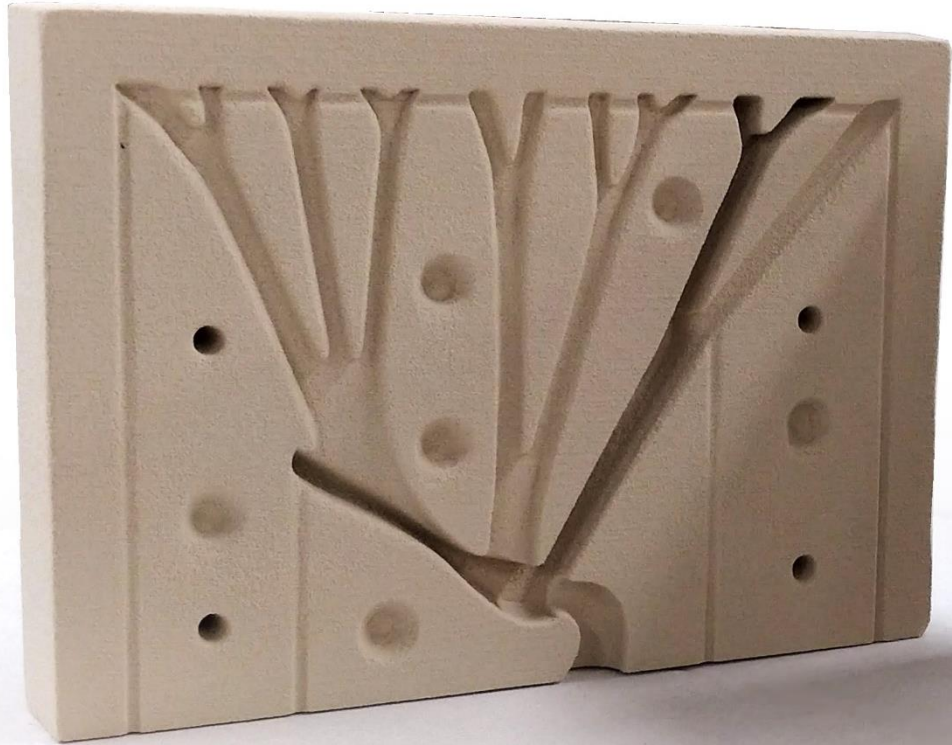




WILFRIED  
2912 grams

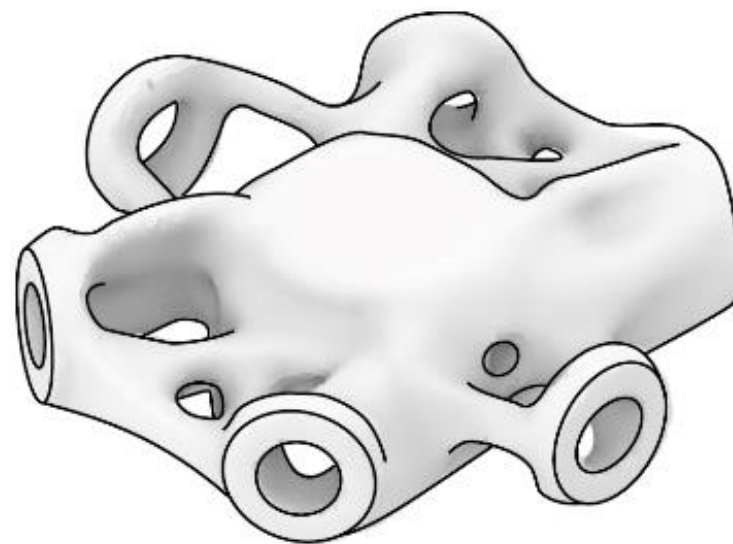
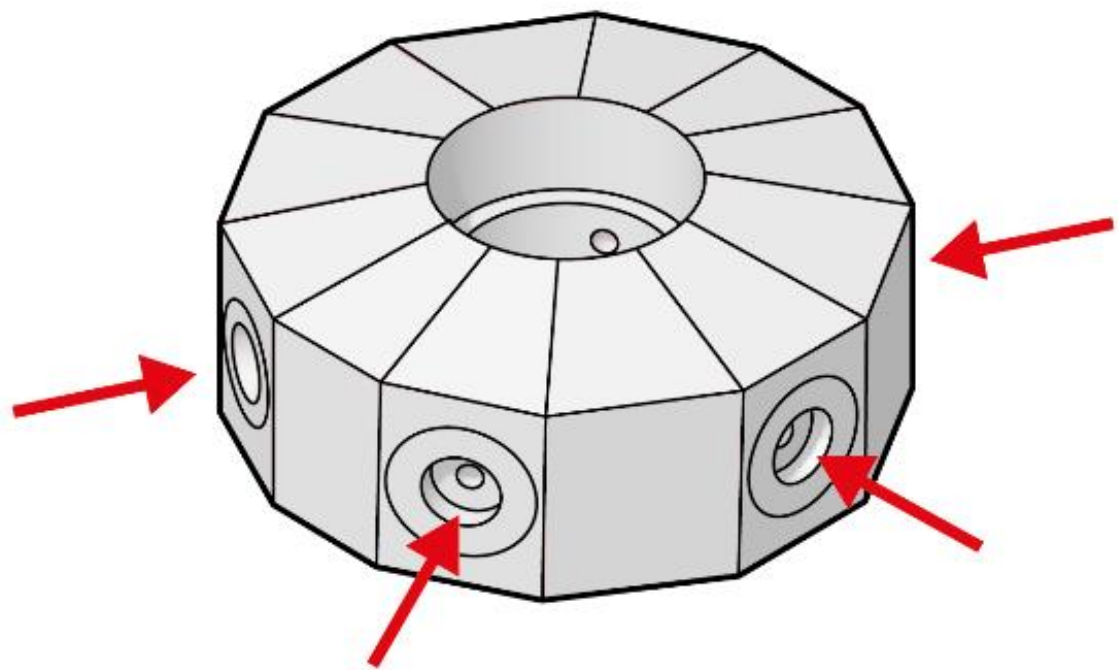
2912



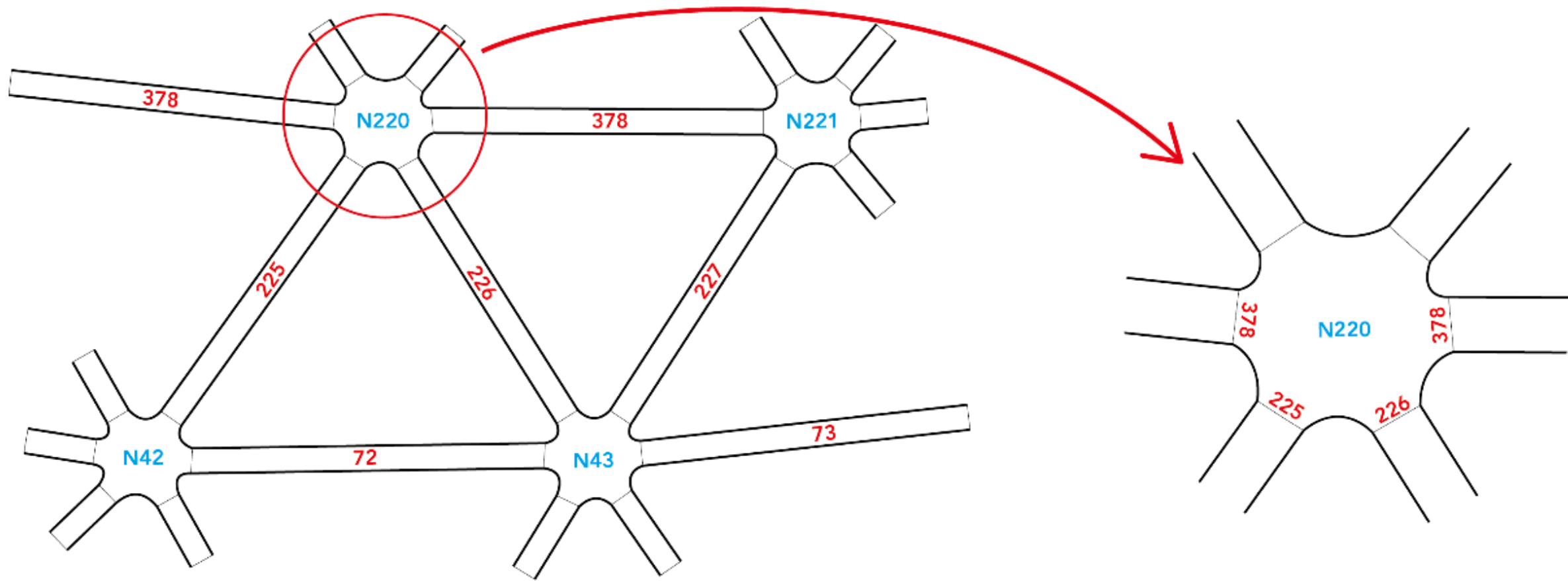




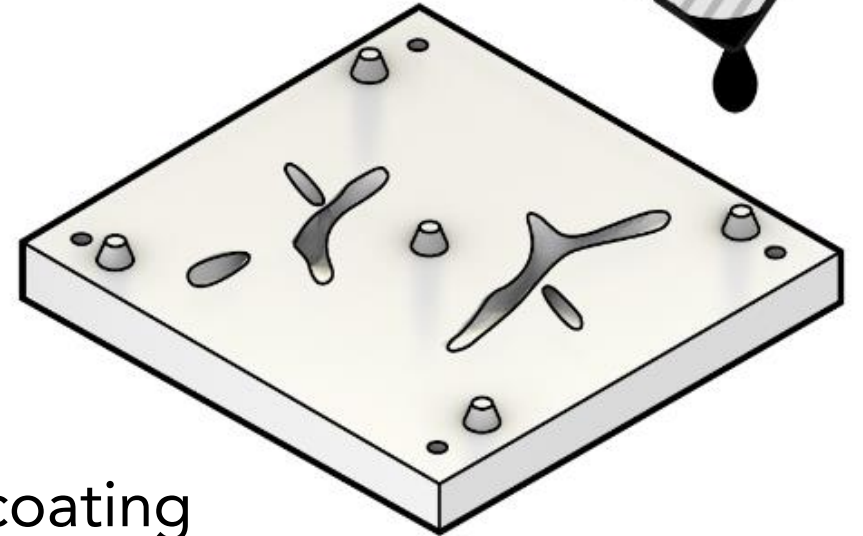
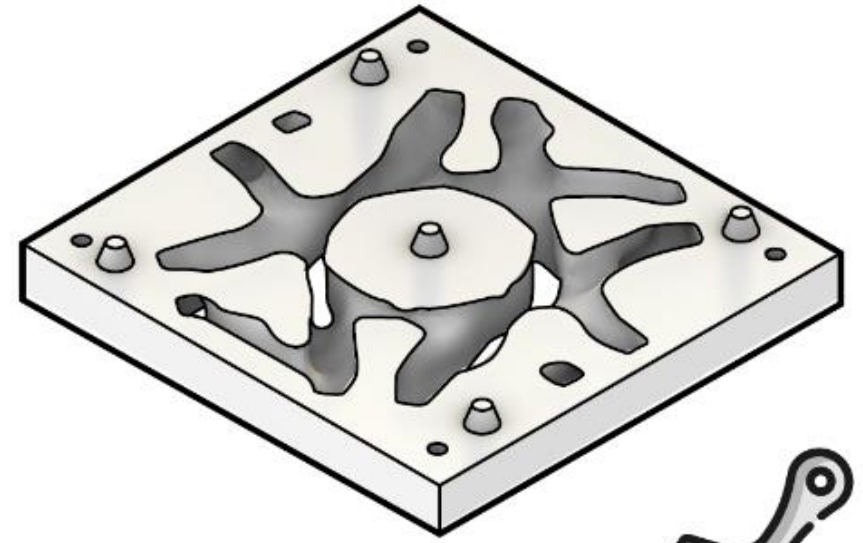
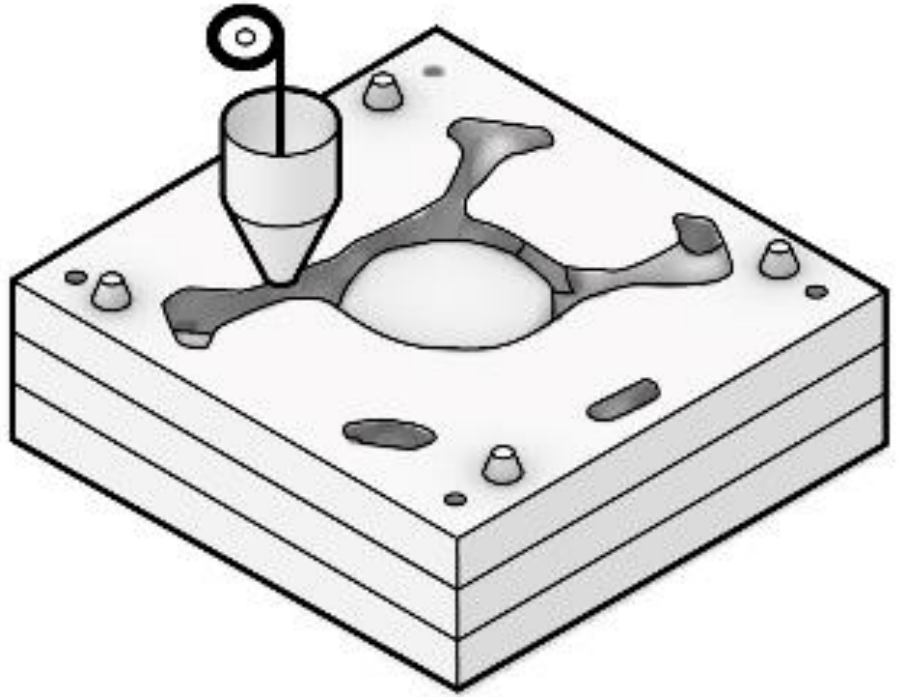
fabrication and assembly



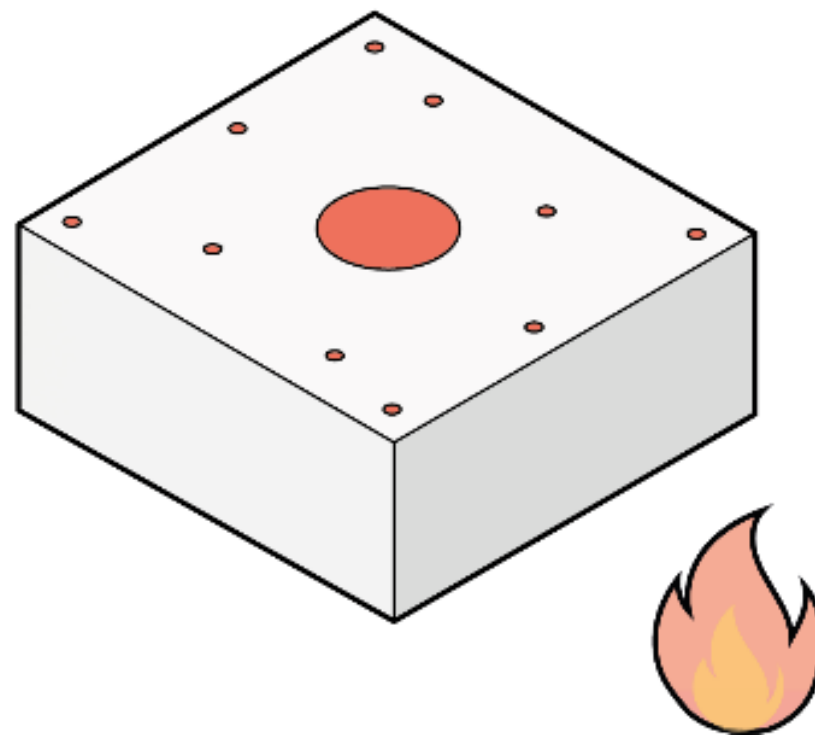
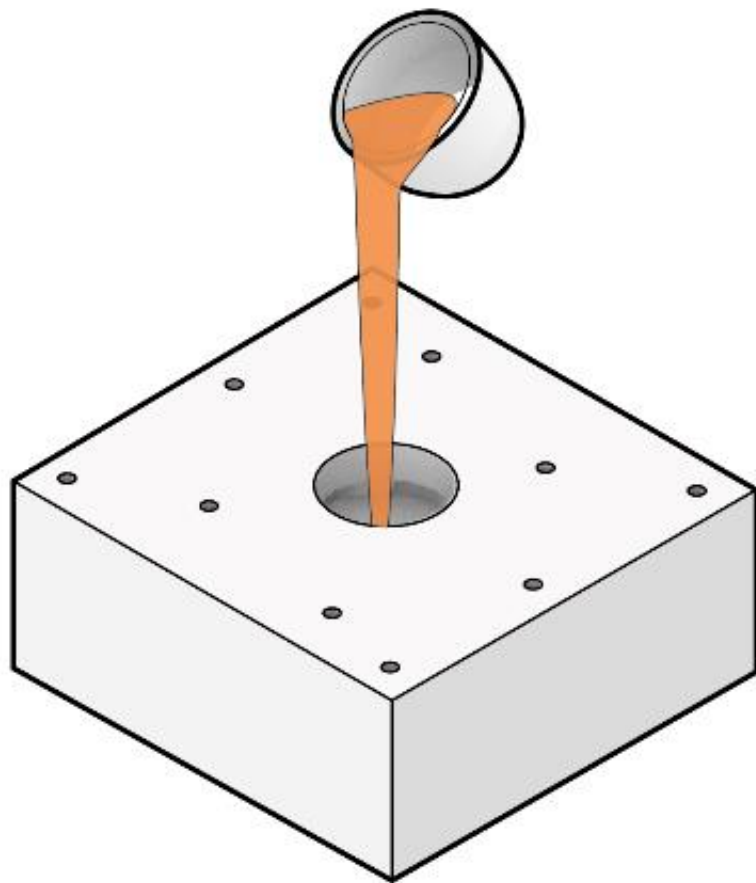
optimisation



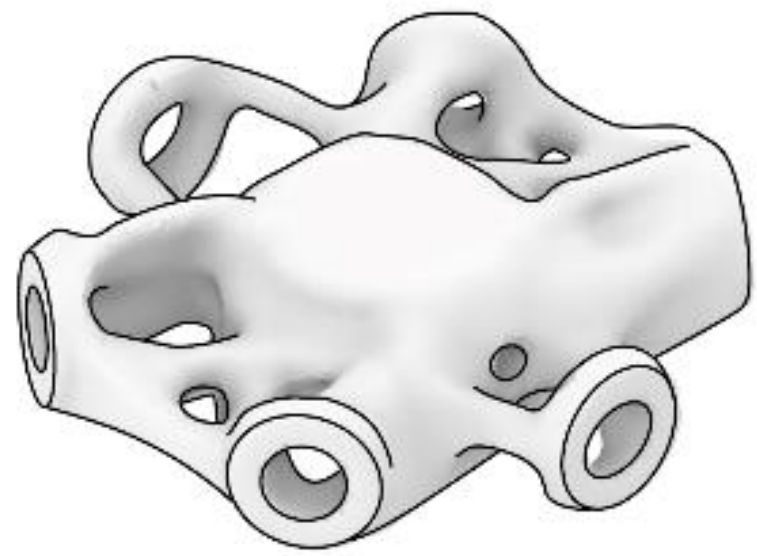
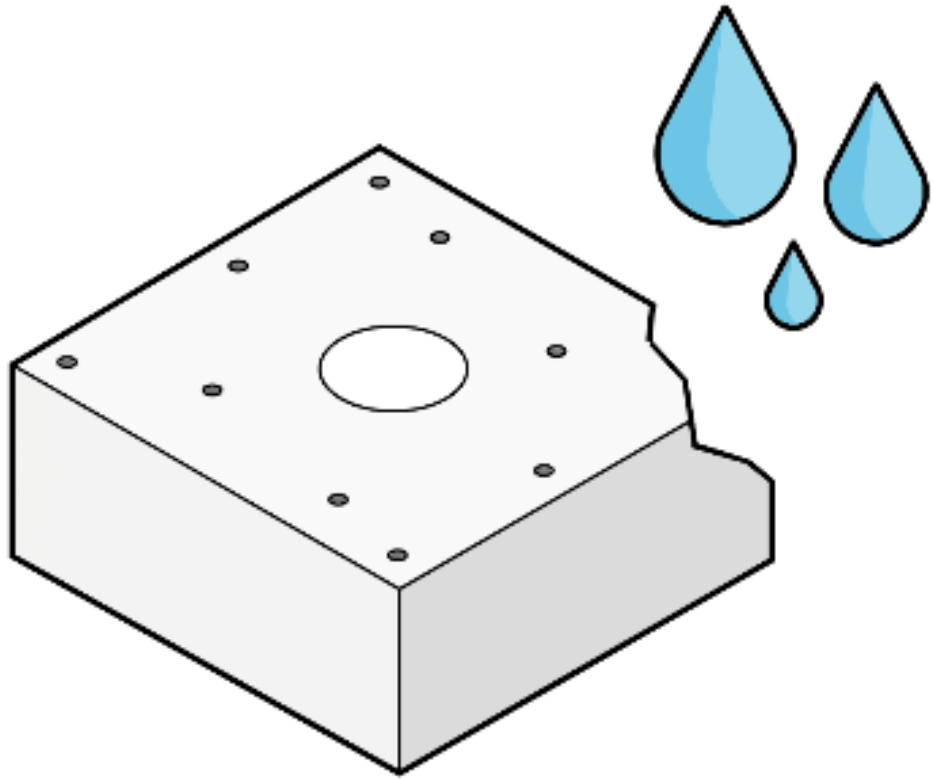
labeling



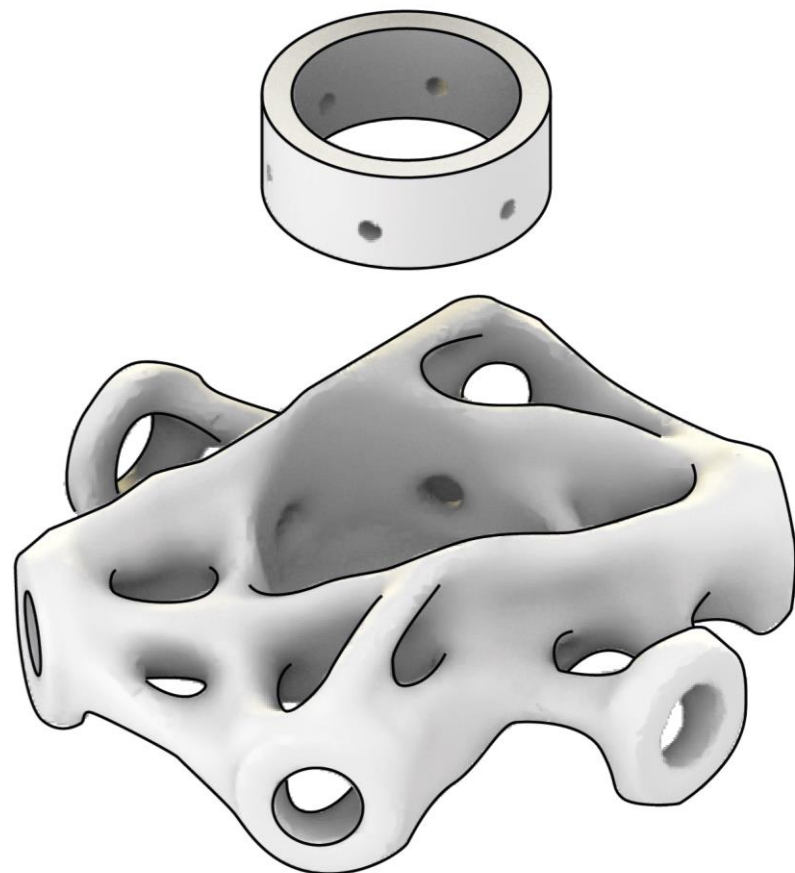
sand mould printing and coating



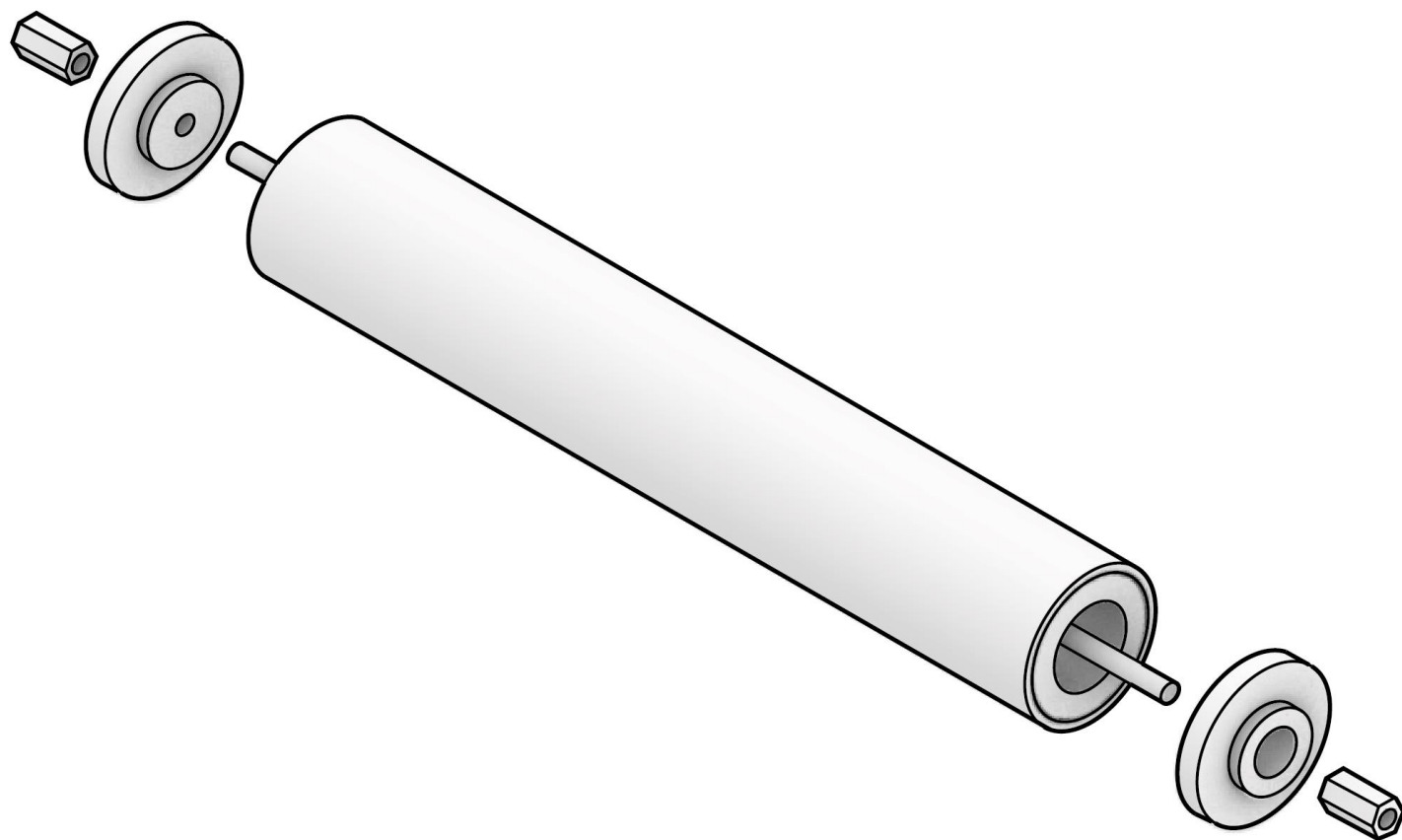
casting and annealing



demoulding

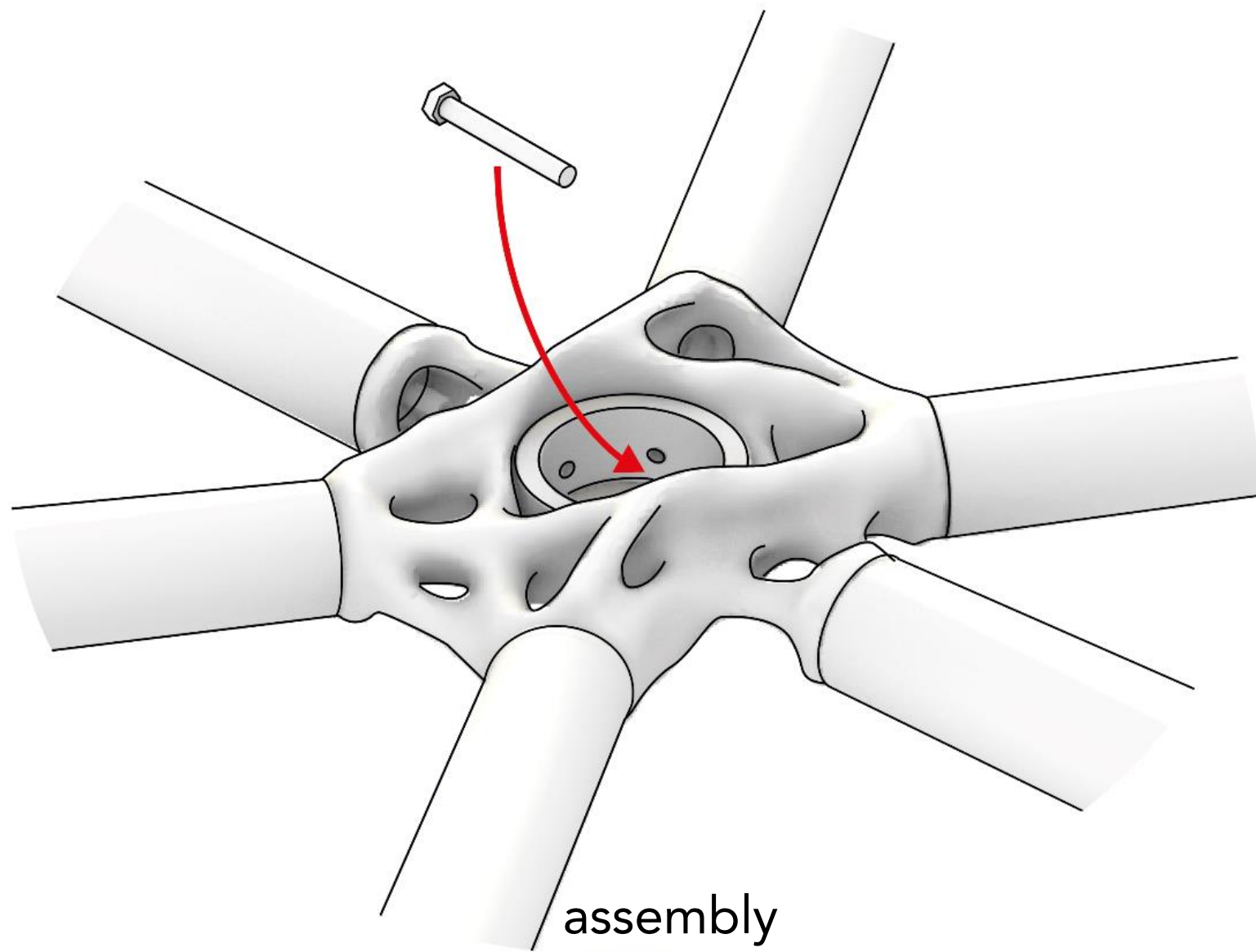


assembly

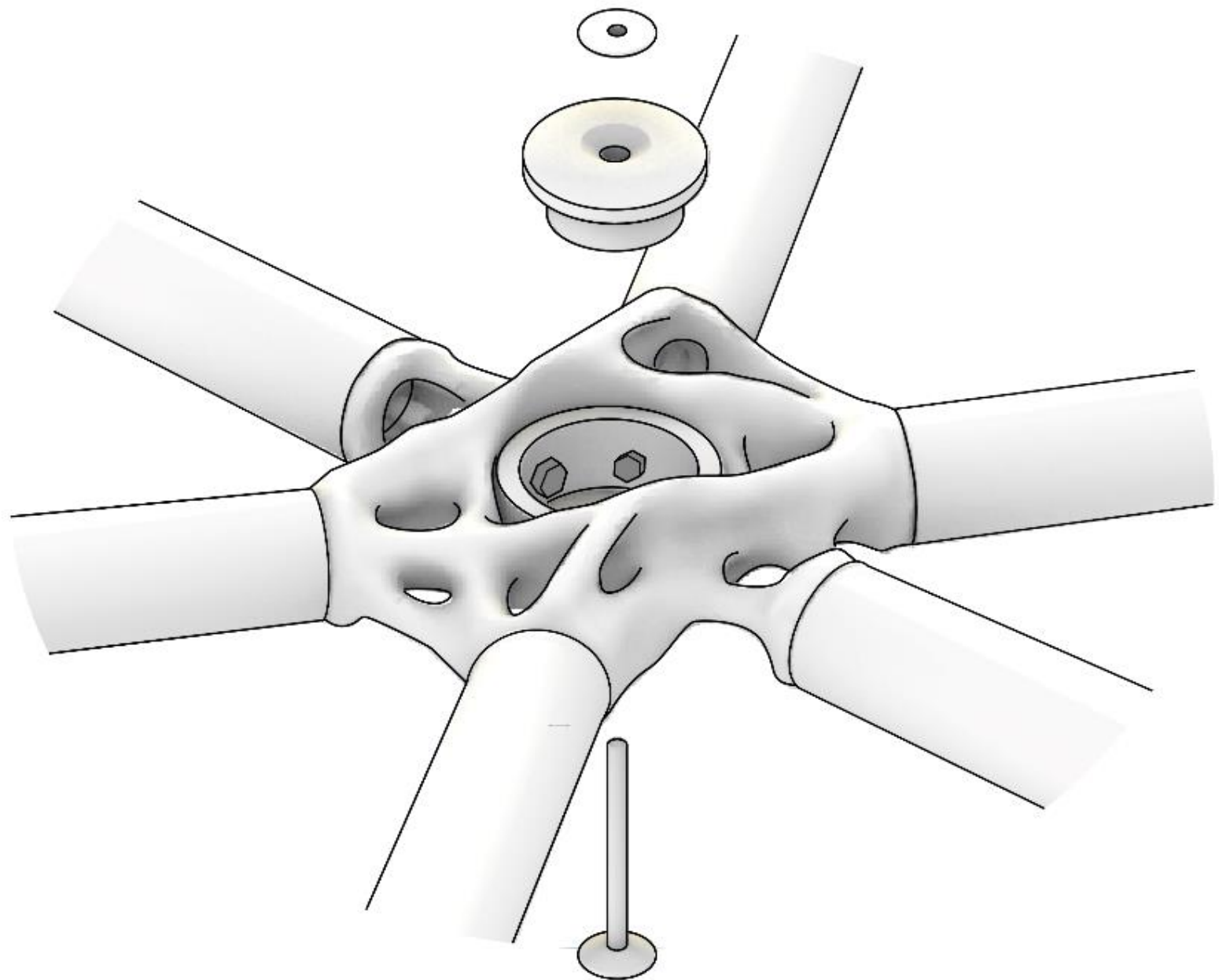


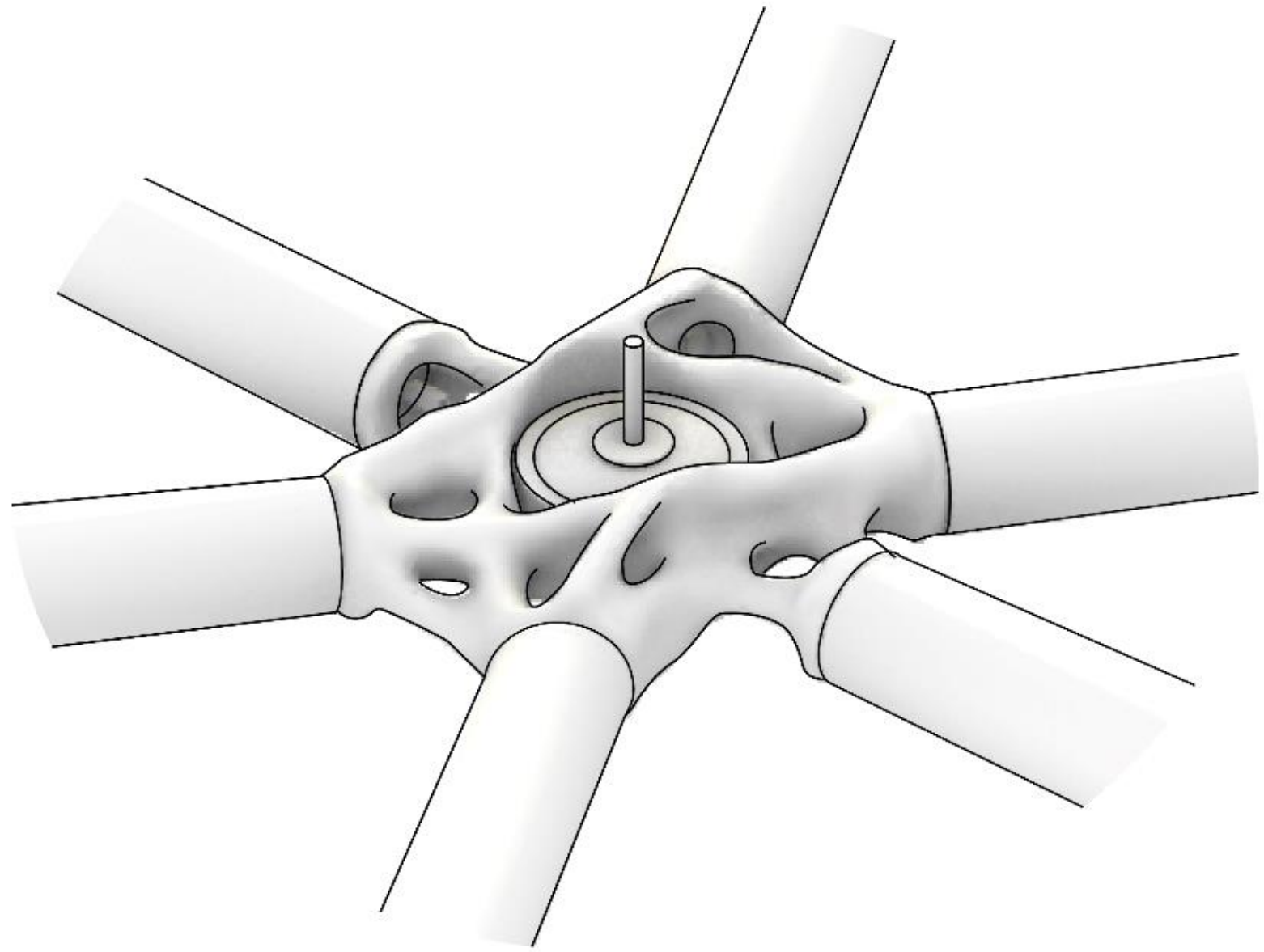
assembly

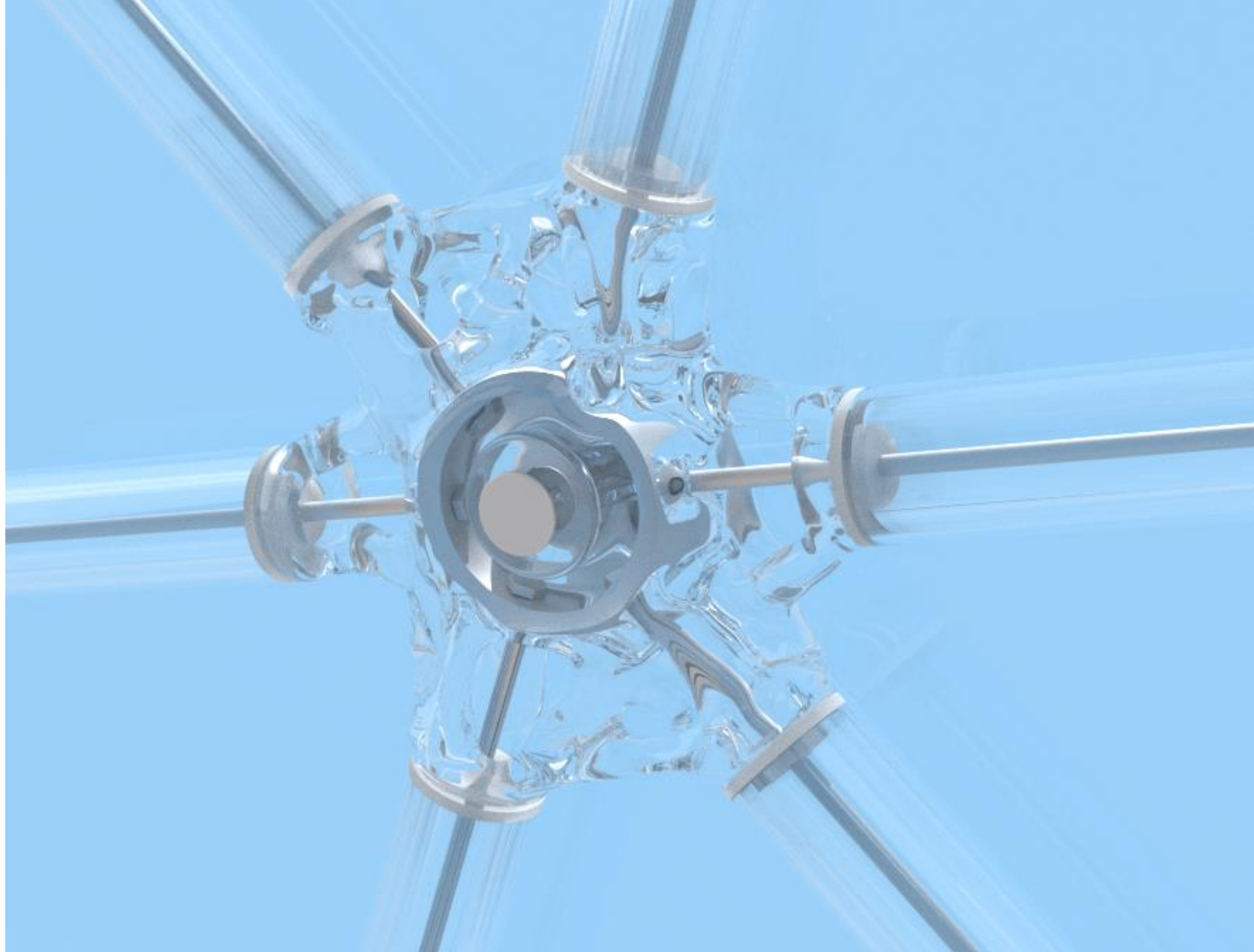


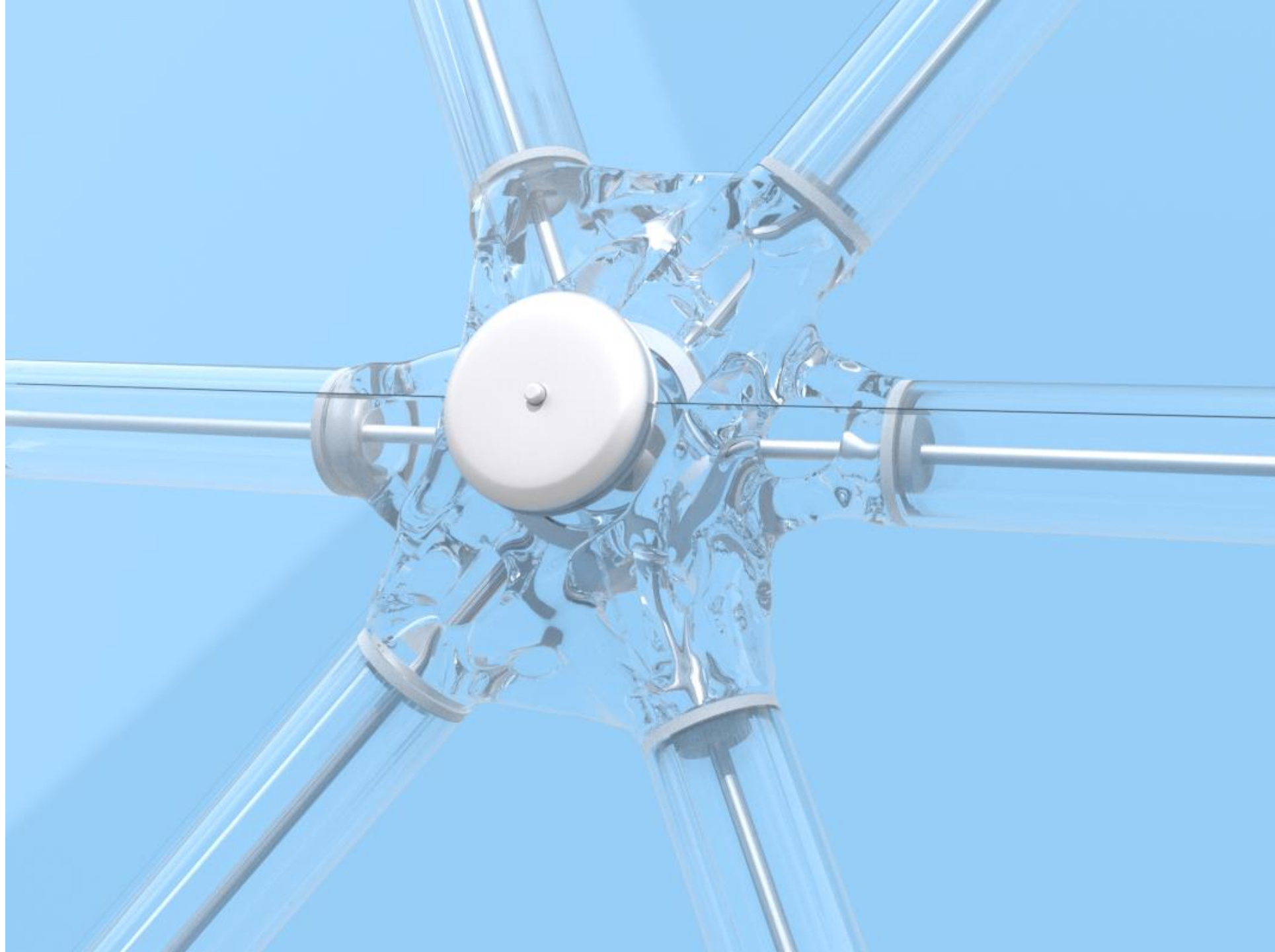


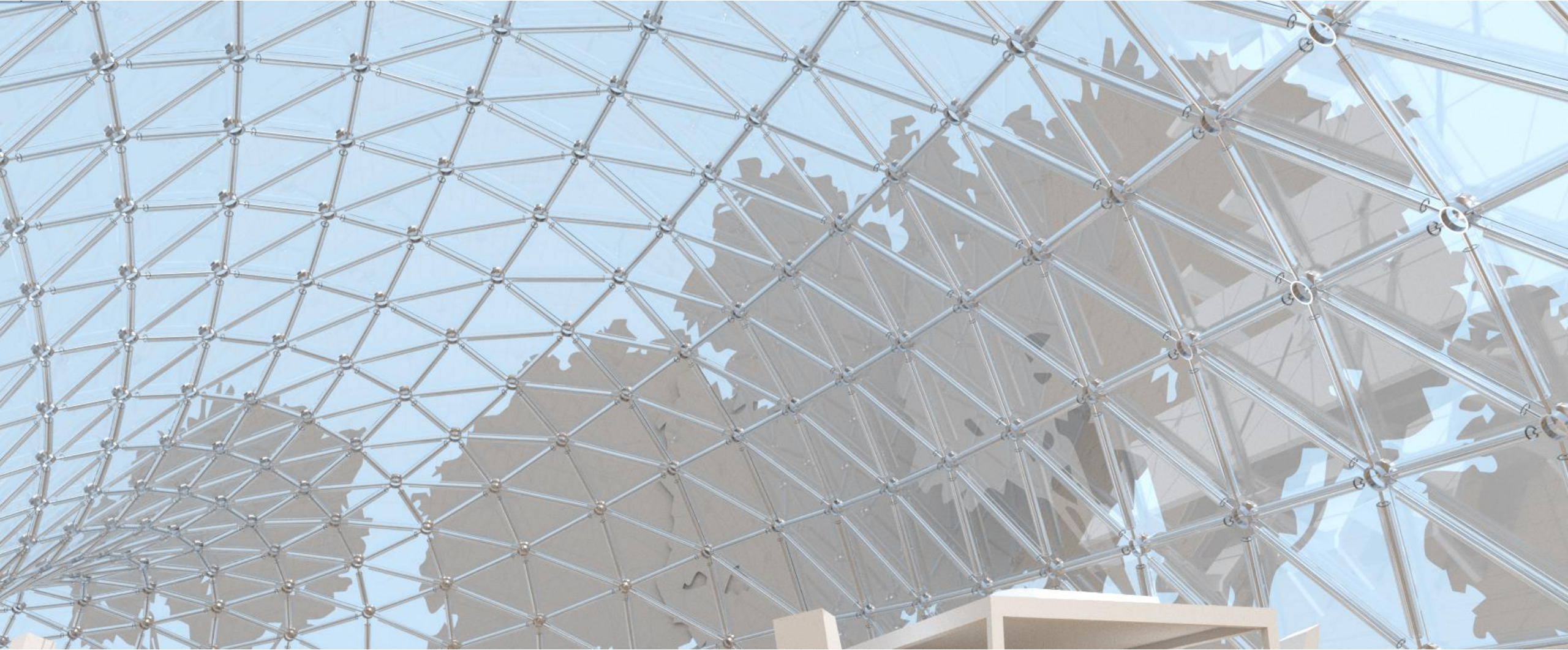
assembly











## **Conclusion**

*What is the potential of using Topology Optimisation as a design tool for a structural cast glass grid shell node that is optimised for fabrication, structural behaviour and assembly?*

## **Conclusion**

*Topology Optimisation has the potential to greatly improve cast glass as a structural material by improving material efficiency and significantly reducing annealing times.*

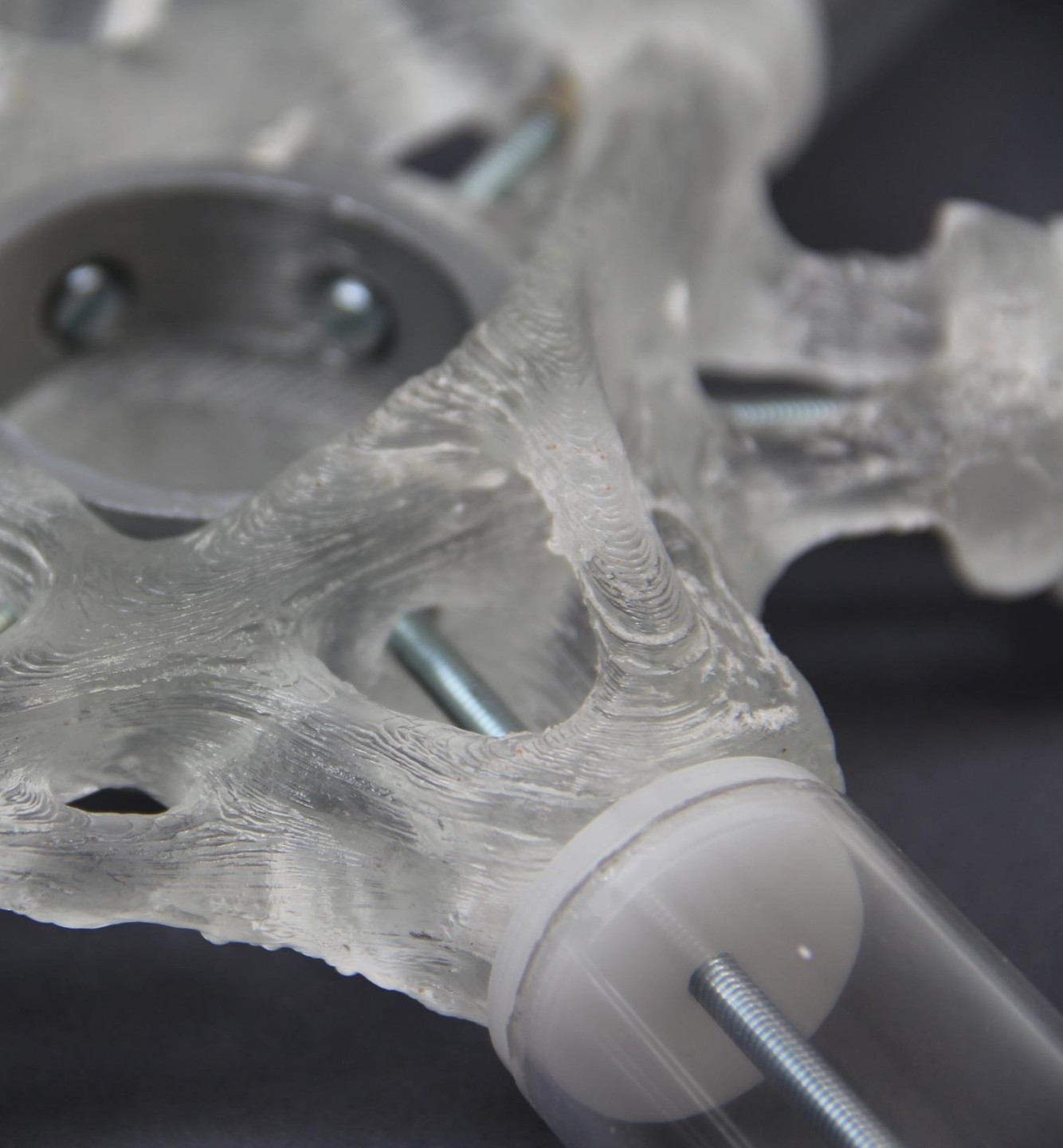


## **Conclusion**

*Additive manufacturing makes it possible to fabricate these geometries, and offers the possibility to concentrate the complexity of the design in a single component*

## **Lesson learned**

*Topology Optimisation can be a powerful tool,  
but has very specific applications*



acknowledgements

# Illustrations

p. 5: Peter Aaron, from <https://architizer.com/projects/apple-store-fifth-avenue/>

p. 6: Enclos, from <http://www.enclos.com/service-and-technology/technology/structural-glass-facades/facade-structures/glass-fin>

p. 7: MVRDV, from <https://www.mvrdv.nl/projects/240/crystal-houses>

Koji Fuji / Nacasa & Partners Inc, from <https://www.archdaily.com/885674/optical-glass-house-hiroshi-nakamura-and-nap>

p. 8: Australbricks, from <https://australbricks.com.au/nsw/product/venetian-glass>

p. 9-12: Corning Museum of glass, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBlSNNPRseQ>

p. 15: SCHOTT/ESO, from <https://www.eso.org/public/images/eso1715a/>

p. 16: Giant Magellan Telescope <https://www.gmto.org/gallery/mirror-lab/>

p. 20: Weaver, T. (September 2016) Inside Track; 3D printing the Light Rider. Develop 3D, 20-24.

p. 21: Prayudhi, B. (2016) 3F3D: Form Follows Force with 3D printing; Topology Optimisation for Free-form Building Envelope design with Additive Manufacturing. Master Thesis, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, TU Delft. Retrieved from: <https://repository.tudelft.nl/islandora/object/uuid%3Ab068f81c-1561-4733-a07d-05e60368184b> in November 2018.

p. 23: Schlaich Bergermann Partner, <https://www.sbp.de/en/project/museum-for-hamburg-history-courtyard-roof/>

p. 26: P. Aldrup., 2014. Recieved in personal correspondence with A. Sevtsuk.

p. 28: Carpenter Lowings, [https://carpenterlowings.com/portfolio\\_page/glass-tube-field/](https://carpenterlowings.com/portfolio_page/glass-tube-field/),

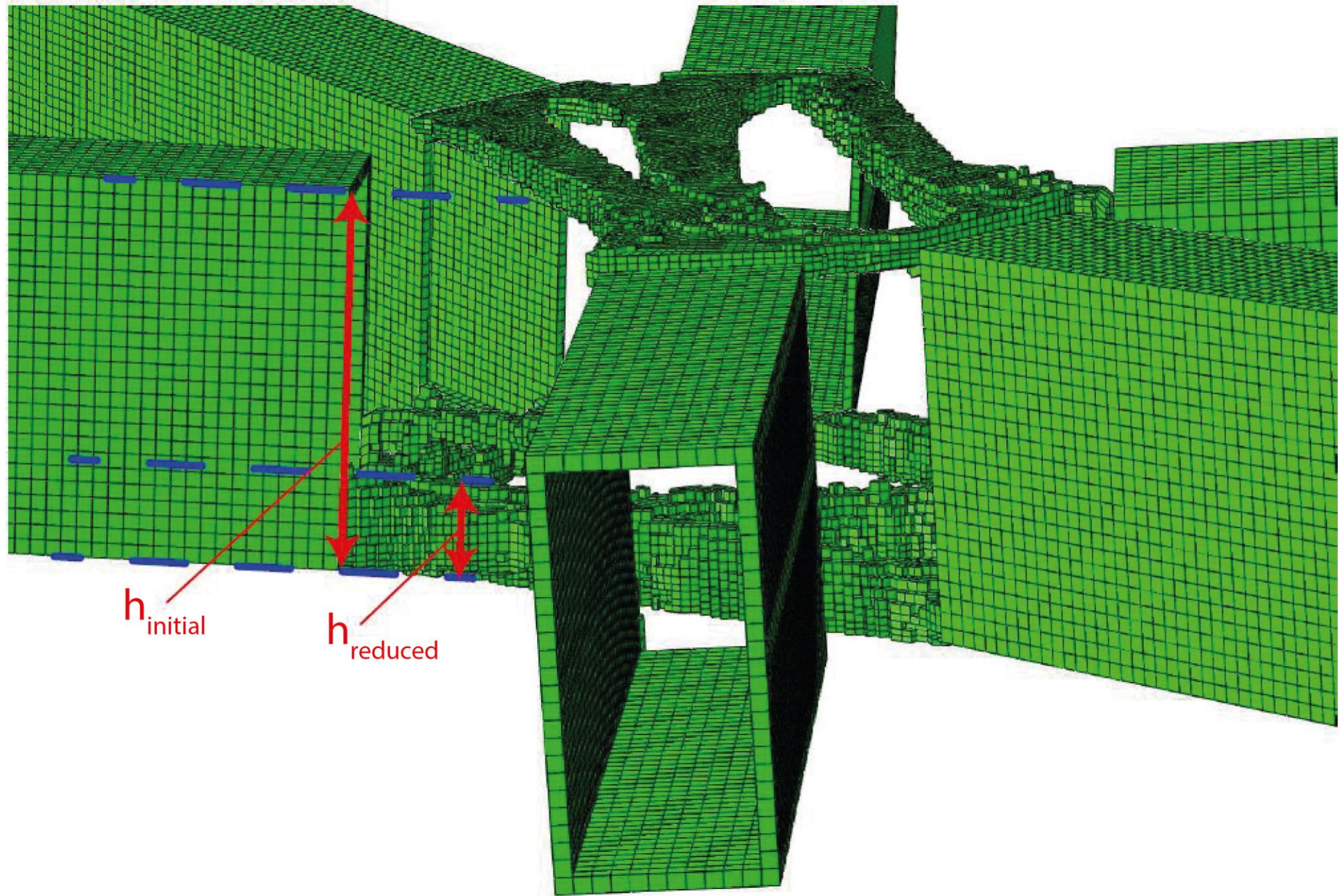
p. 30: Ate Snijder, from private correspondence

p. 51: Cimri, from <https://www.cimri.com/2-kisilik-kamp-cadiri?sort=price,asc&page=1>

p. 65: MVRDV, from <https://www.mvrdv.nl/projects/240/crystal-houses>

p. 71: Galjaard, S., Hofman, S., Perry, N., Ren, S. (2015) Optimizing Structural Building Elements in Metal by uaing Additive Manufacturing. Proceedings of the International Association for Shell and Spacial Structures Symposium, August 2015, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

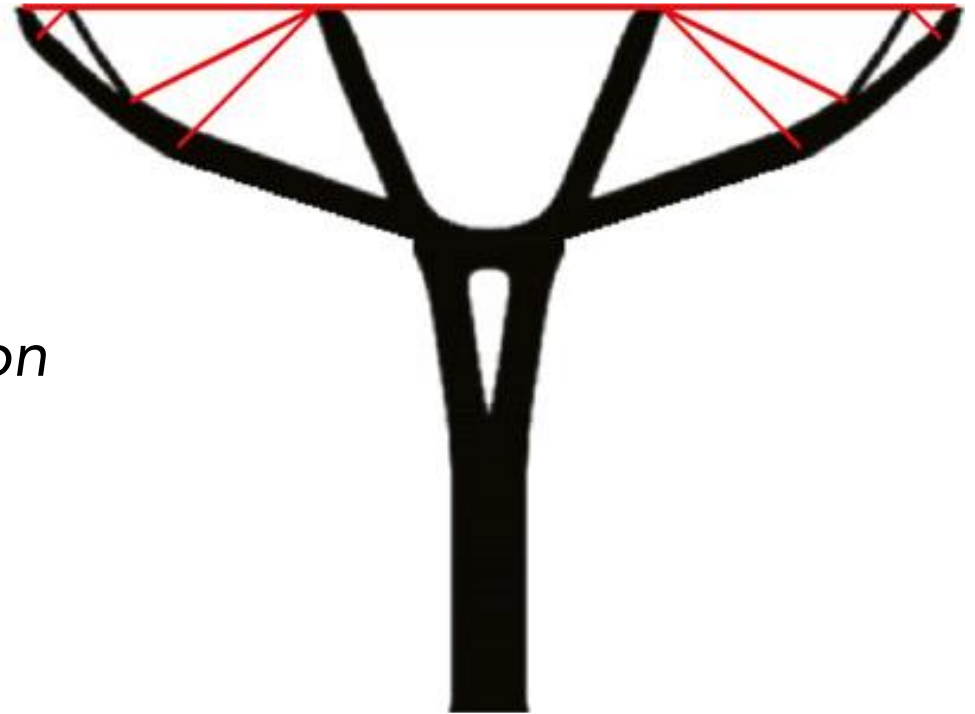
p. 83/88: Ivneet Bhatia, from personal correspondence



Van der Linden, 2015

## Further Research

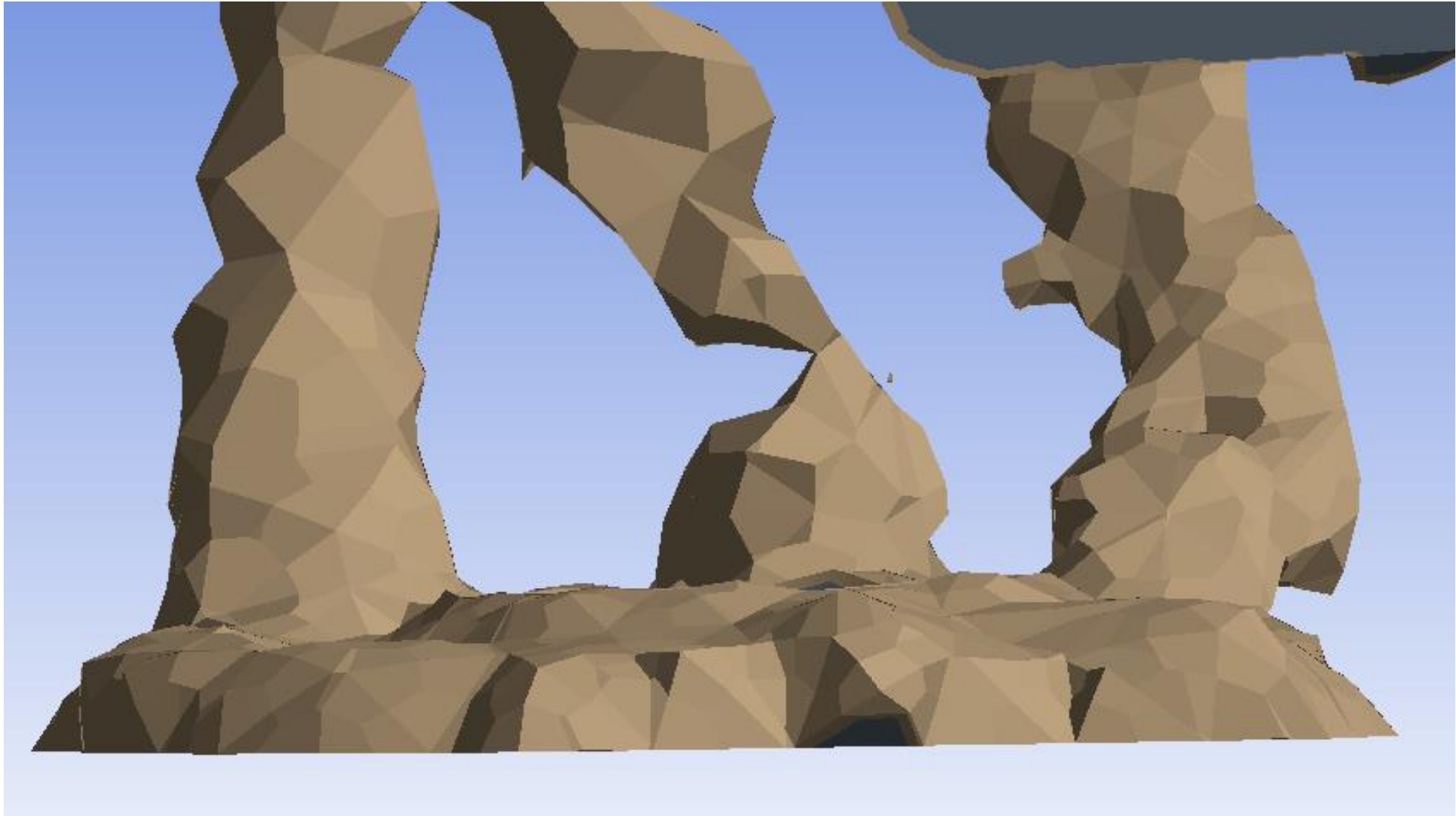
*Hybrid steel/glass structures using  
dual-material Topology Optimisation*



## Further Research

*Stress based Topology Optimisation*



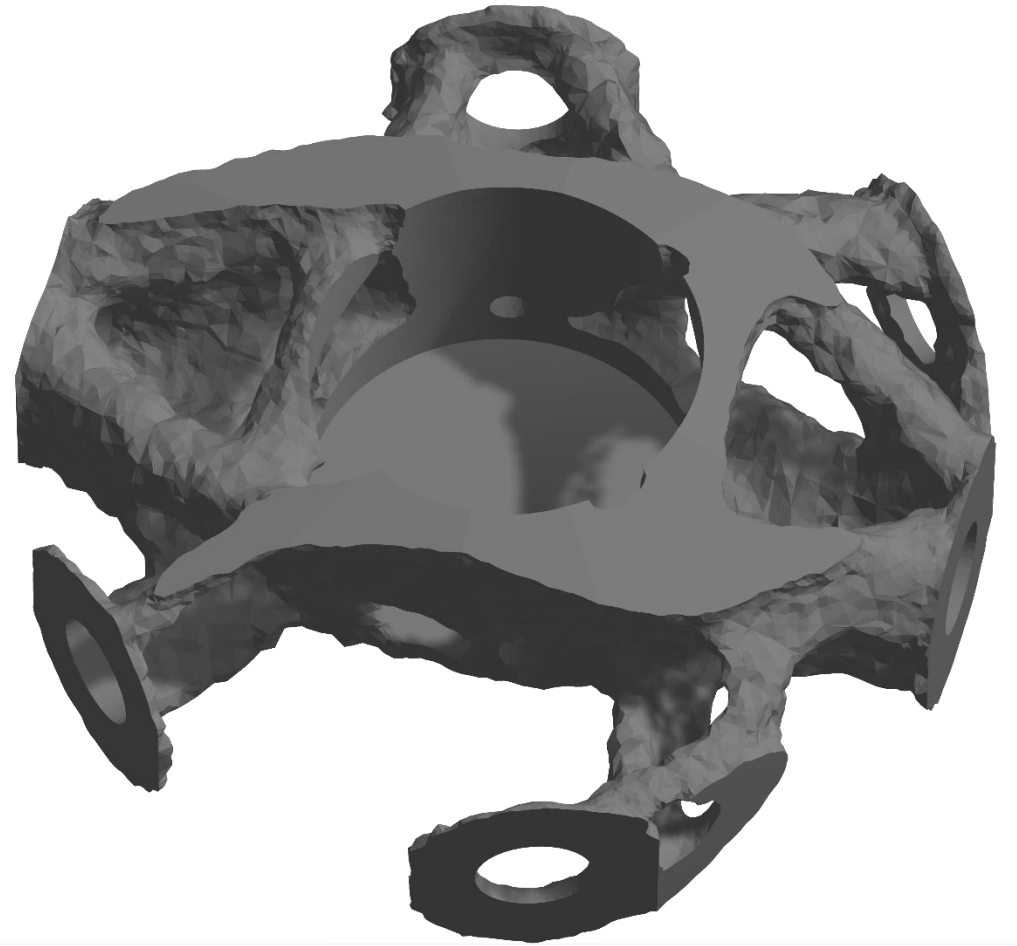
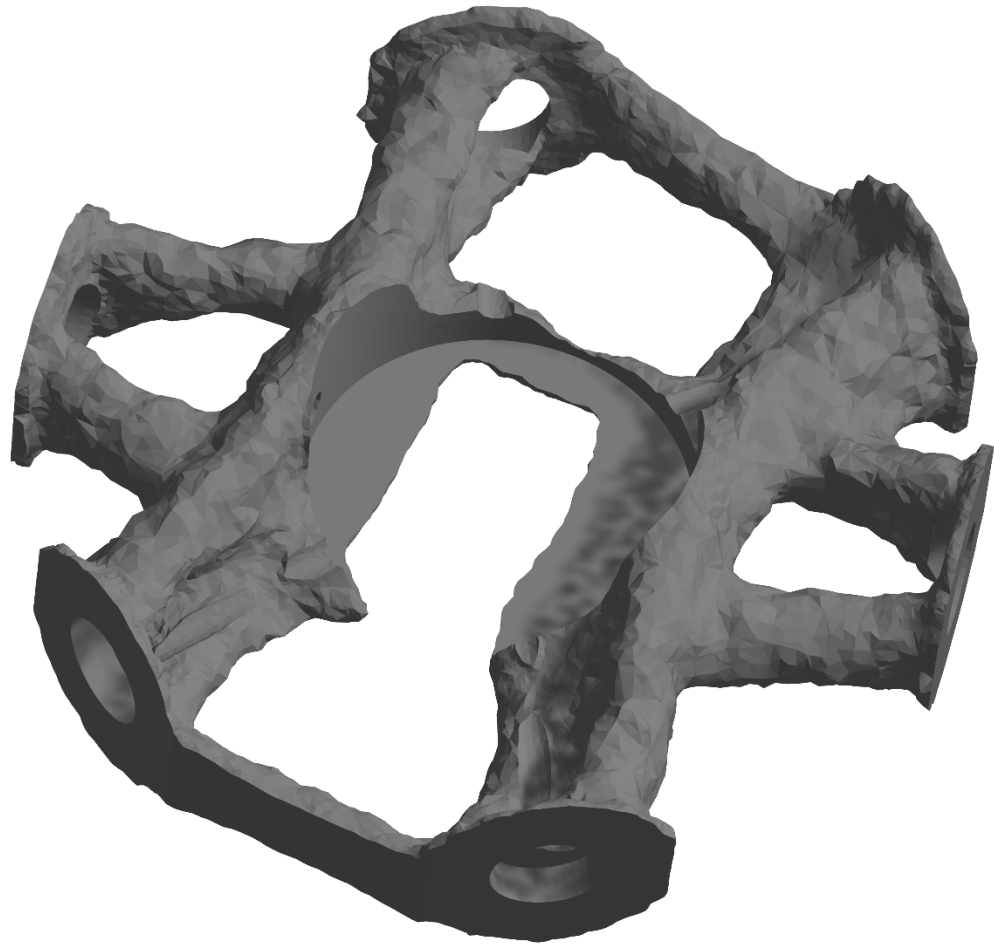


Interrupted mesh



## Calculation times

|                         |           |                    |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| <i>Mesh size</i>        | 8 mm      | 5 mm               |
| <i>Calculation time</i> | 6 minutes | 2 hours 12 minutes |



Combined optimisation

